

Family of German Bakers Prospered Here in 1800's

T-H. Trib-Stak 4/2/67.

Dorothy Clark.

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

I'm indebted to Rose Heinig, 75 S. 18th St., for much of the information about the Heinig family. Her great-grandfather, Frederick A. Heinig, was born in Germany. He owned the northwest corner of 12th St. and Wabash Ave., now occupied by Paitson's Hardware Store, and ran a small notions and candy store with living quarters in the rear.

His son, Charles F. Heinig, the grandfather of Miss Rose, was born in Wurtemburg, Germany in 1845. He came to the United States in 1854 and first settled in Hannibal, Mo. When he was fifteen he lied about his age and became a water boy with the Union troops during the Civil War.



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After the Civil War Charles Heinig came to Terre Haute and opened the first steam bakery in this county. He continued in business until 1877 when he went with Hulman & Co. Heinig remained with Hulman until the death of Herman Hulman in 1913.

At that time he became associated with the Sparks

Milling Co. and was employed there at the time of his death in 1934 at the age of 88 years. He was well-known in Indiana and Illinois, having traveled for 60 years for bread and flour concerns.

Charles Heinig married Rosa Grau in 1868. She was born in 1844 in Germany and became a ward of Spencer Ball as a small child when her parents died in a cholera epidemic on their way west, leaving her as an orphan. She died in 1924 at the age of 80.

Miss Rose, named for her grandmother, remembers that her grandfather was so fastidious and sharply dressed that he was known around town as "Gentleman Charlie."

The father of Miss Rose was George Heinig Sr., nicknamed "Schatz" which is the German term for "sweetheart." According to his daughter, he was a good locomotive engi-

neer and well-liked by his co-workers. To his face he was always called "Mr. Heinig," but was affectionately referred to, behind his back, as "Old Schatz."

Taught at Rose

When Rose Polytechnic Institute was located at 13th and Locust Sts., the professors would call Mr. Lindly, Road Foreman of Engines, and ask for a fireman to explain how to operate a boiler and work up steam. Mr. Lindly always sent George Heinig. When he joined the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen in 1890, Eugene V. Debs was on the initiating team.

Before the Heinig family came to Terre Haute there were four bakers listed in the 1863 City Directory. They were: Charles Bell, at 47 Ohio St.; Philip Philbeck, corner 4th and Walnut sts.; Andrew Widel, on Lafayette between 4th and 5th Sts., and J. Zimmerman, on Wabash between 4th and 5th.

The Confectioners were listed as: W. Calhoun, on the west side of the Public Square; Mrs. J. E. Ruggles, at 10 S. 3rd St., opposite the Courthouse; Stone & Rippe-toe, at 13 National Block, and W. H. Scudder, at 9 S. 4th St., one door south of the Post Office, whose advertisement stated that he was "a dealer in candies, toys, fire works, etc., and sold fancy candies at Cincinnati prices."

In the 1868-1869 City Directory was the first listing of "Frank Heinig & Bros., groceries, flour, provisions and bakery, Lafayette Road, residence the same." There was also a T. A. Heinig listed as a carpenter living on N. 5th St.

There were also seven other bakers listed in Terre Haute in 1868-1869. They were owned by J. Boggs, A. F. Eiser, A. Gerhardt, Augustus Grabe, George Myers, John B. Oshe and W. H. Sage (the original builder of the Historical Museum as his residence in 1868).

Sell Candy, Too

Bakers frequently operated Confectionery and Fruit stores in connection with their bakeries, and this added Jacob Gundettinger, Samuel Stone and Alfred Wunsch to the list. By this time W. H. Scudder was wholesale only.

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In 1871 F. A. Heinig was listed as residing at the corner of 12th and Main Streets. F. C. Heinig of Heinig & Bros., was living on the west side of Lafayette north of the Canal. Frank Heinig, of the same firm, was listed at the same address.

The firm of Heinig (probably misspelled), composed of brothers Frank and F. C., were listed as "Grocers, Bakers, and Candy Manufacturers, on West side of Lafayette north of the Canal."

Other bakers of 1871 were: J. M. Davis, A. F. Eiser, I. Keiser, George F. King, J. Meissen, G. Myers, and W. H. Sage. Heinig, King and Sage were the only candy manufacturers listed.

The 1874 Vigo County Atlas contains a drawing of the interior of Heinig's Union Steam Bakery, No. 610 Lafayette Street. The firm was described as manufacturers of candies. Boxes and barrels are stacked here and there in the drawing.

Complicated gears and pulleys operated the old-fashioned machinery of that day. Of the 10 men shown working in the large workroom, three are shown tending the huge wall ovens. The other seven are shown doing different jobs, and all are wearing overalls and broad-brimmed hats.

An advertisement in an 1877 edition of the TERRE HAUTE EVENING GAZETTE furnishes a bit more information. "Heinig's Bakery, the old well-known Steam Bakery, offers cakes, pies, rolls, buns, bread, cookies, Crackers, candies — and everything found at a bakery, all fresh in endless variety, constantly on hand, being delivered to all parts of the city in the glass wagons. Frank Heinig, proprietor."

Business Booms

A later advertisement tells that "Charley Heinig, Jobbing Confectioner and Baker, is doing a driving big business, supplying fully 50 stores with bread and confections. He maintains the old reputation for excellence. He is on Lafayette street opposite the old stand."

Miss Rose is understandably proud of the fact that engineering has followed down through the generations in her family. George Heimig Sr., her father, began as a fireman in 1890. His son, Ed-Sr., her father, began as a fireman in 1890. His son, Edward F. was an engineer with the Pennsylvania Railroad for 50 years.

Another brother, Boniface Heinig, worked on the C&EI. Still another brother, George, was employed with the Pennsylvania Railroad until the shops were moved from Terre Haute.

Miss Rose says that the present generation of the Heinig family, her nieces and nephews, are all teachers or have married teachers, not an engineer in the lot.

First Brick Factory Was

Founded By Ross Family

TERRE HAUTE TRIB.

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The manufacture of clay products was a factor of importance from the very early days of Vigo County history. The Ross brothers established the first brick factory at Terre Haute in the early 1820s, and shortly after the unvaried wooden construction of the town was diversified by residences and business buildings of brick.

Over the years brick yards have been too numerous to mention. By 1900 the making of "mud brick" from the alluvial clay was developed into the finer and more durable clay products from the use of shales and other clays.

The clay industries along the west bluffs of the Wabash River developed rapidly after 1900. The conditions were particularly favorable since the raw material and the abundance of cheap coal fuel was combined with a network of railroad lines to convey the finished product to market.

Stoneware, vitrified wares, fireproofing, etc., were made in large quantities and of recognized excellence in this county. The Vigo Clay Co. was established in 1901 for the manufacture of hollow brick, fireproofing, etc.; the C. M. Miller Mining & Mfg. Co. was established in 1904 for making vitrified brick; the National Drain Tile Co. established a plant here in 1902; the Terre Haute Brick & Pipe Co. began making paving brick in 1894.

The invention of labor-saving devices made progress possible in brick making. It was not that machinery could do so much more work than the old hand methods that made it desirable, but that manual labor was lightened and the condition of the employees benefited.

In 1830 in the City of Cincinnati (and many more places) a regular day's work for one molder was 9,000 brick. One man put mud on the table, one man carried off the molds and dumped the brick on the yard, one man would dig and haul the clay in the pits, one man would wheel dry brick off the yard and put them under the shed ready to set, and one boy would drive the oxen that tempered the clay in round pits, and held 3,000 brick, making in all five men and one boy to the task of 9,000 bricks.



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The molds had six bricks, three lengthwise side by side. The molder would handle his mold from sand box to table, and cutting down his walk with both hands in the shape of an oyster, would throw it into the molds at the rate of one every second, and then strike off the clay from the top of the molds in about three seconds, making six bricks every ten seconds.

The story was told of a celebrated race by two stalwart men, expert molders in 1837. They were to mold from sunrise to sunset. Bets ran high, and all the brick makers in Cincinnati stopped work that day to witness the contest. When the time for molding was up at sunset, one of the molders had molded 25,000 brick, the other 24,700.

This seems incredible but an account written by an eye-

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witness told of the event. The names of the participants in this prodigious feat of skilled labor were Martin and Conell. Martin won the bet. There was no machine that could turn out an average work to exceed 1,500 brick to each hand employed, so that the gain by machinery was found in the improved conditions of the labor and the uniform superior quality of the brick.

Handmade Bricks

In the early 1800's bricks were made by hand, of soft, tempered clay, dried in the sun, and burned in the old-fashioned "cased and daubed" kilns, the same process as used by the Egyptians.

As late as 1890 brick experts believed the talk of the great power of machines to press clay into brick was all speculative. Some said the machines would place forty tons of pressure to a brick, some said one hundred tons, but none were believed at first.

William Bergmann, pioneer brick manufacturer of Terre Haute, came to Terre Haute shortly after 1850 and worked in local brick yards. In 1871 he purchased the old brick plant at what is now 1625 S. 1st St., and began the manufacture of brick operating this plant until his death during

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the big distillery explosion on October 20, 1880.

His son, Wilbo Bergmann, took over the brick yard after his father's death, and in 1890 moved the ~~yard~~ yard to a location south of Wabash Ave., ~~1400~~ ¹⁴⁵⁰ 1st ~~St.~~ ^{St.} Side Park Brick Plant, ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ a ~~small~~ ^{small} ~~brick~~ ^{brick} ~~plant~~ ^{plant}. In a few years later Bergmann moved the yard to 110 N. 1st St. and, from 1894 to 1908 records tell us that the daily capacity of this plant was 13,000 bricks. Bergmann owned 67 acres of clay land which furnished the raw product for his plant.

Terre Haute's first brick house was built at the southeast corner of First and Swan streets. The first brick store room was built at the southwest corner of Second and Ohio streets.

In the 1880's local brick makers were C. Asherman, located on the west side of the Prairieton Road south of Hulman St.; R. J. Barrett of 1640 N. 1st St.; W. Bergmann, 1625 S. 1st St.; E. Harms, 1201 S. 1st St.; C. and C. C. Knapp Co., northwest corner of 1st and Second Ave.; J. W. Ross, 1331 S. 1st St.; Wm. Sudbrink, 1409 S. 1st St.; and L. E. Walker, whose office was located in the old Beach Block.

Coddington Family Among Early Community Settlers

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Many early pioneer families came to Terre Haute and the neighboring vicinity for a period of years and then moved on to other communities. When this happened, very often their accomplishments and contributions to our community were either forgotten or lost to written history. Just such a family was the Coddington family, whose descendant, W. Wendell Fye, of Mt. Carmel, Ill., was kind enough to give me photostatic copies of his family history.

The Coddington family goes back to Archibald Coddington (1756-1822), a private in the New York Militia during the Revolutionary War, and his wife, Mary Coon. The youngest of their family of 12 children, Isaac Vantyle Coddington was born in Somerset County, New Jersey, in 1803. His parents were the earliest settlers of that county.

Isaac V. Coddington became a blacksmith and skilled iron worker. After the death of his parents he married Phoebe Ruckman in 1824, and with his growing family moved to a farm near Terre Haute in 1832 and into town two years later, where he remained until 1845.

The move from Union Village, near Valley Forge in New Jersey, to Terre Haute, Ind., was a major undertaking in 1832. At that time, when railroads were unknown, it was a long and tedious journey in wagons, occupying six weeks in going across the wild country.

When Asbury Chapel was erected, Isaac V. Coddington was one of the building committee. His responsibility was to provide the elements for Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Many pioneer settlers here remember seeing him on the morning of communion Sabbath on his way to church with the bread and wine.

All that remains of Asbury Chapel today is the stone with the name carved on it which was taken from the Fourth and Poplar site to the new church at Seventh and Poplar. Now that Methodist Temple is no more, the stone was again taken from the razed church. It was planned to give it to the Vigo County Historical Society's Museum for safe keeping, but the old stone disintegrated into small fragments.



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Mr. Fye's grandfather, Stephen R. Coddington, was born in Union Village, New Jersey, in 1829, and came with his parents to Indiana when only three years old. Stephen made the best use of such educational opportunities as came to young men of that day here in Terre Haute, and by close reading and observation he became a man well qualified for life and business.

On Feb. 5, 1855, he married Miss Louisa J. Hinkle at Carlisle, Ind. She was born in Sullivan County, the daughter of Rev. Nathan Hinkle, Methodist Episcopal minister. The young couple lived on a farm near Linton, Ind., and proceeded to raise a family of 10 children.

In May, 1865, the Coddingtons left Terre Haute and went to Mattoon, Ill. Stephen

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established himself in the lumber business there with his partner for 23 years, B. C. Hinkle. Stephen and Louisa Coddington died in Mattoon and were buried in the Dodge Grove Cemetery, he at the age of 69 years, she at the age of 72 years.

The previously mentioned Rev. Nathan Hinkle was born

in North Carolina in 1799. In 1808 he moved to Jefferson County, Kentucky, where he grew to manhood. In 1819 he moved to Sullivan County, Indiana, he remained until 1865, when he moved to Mattoon, Ill. with his daughter, Louisa Hinkle Coddington.

Rev. Nathan Hinkle married Miss Elizabeth (Betesia) Reid of Jefferson County, Kentucky, in 1825. She died in Sullivan County in 1863. They had 13 children.

Rev. Nathan Hinkle joined the M. E. Church in 1815, was licensed to preach in 1832, was

ordained a deacon in 1844, and was ordained an elder in 1852 at Bloomington, Ind. He passed away in 1870 and is buried in Mattoon, with his daughter's family.

Anyone having knowledge of a pioneer family who lived in Terre Haute or vicinity for any length of time, whether they continued to be identified with this area or another, are invited to get in touch with the writer. From 1832 to 1865 in 33 years, a long span in anyone's lifetime, so the Coddington family were a part of the Terre Haute community

before becoming identified with the Mattoon community for another three decades.

Yeager Family Traced To German Highlands

Clark, Dorothy

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

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The first Nicholas Yeager came to Virginia with his ten-year-old son Adam in 1717. A native of the highlands of Germany, probably Bavaria, he settled in Spotsylvania County, Va., and married a woman named Wilhite. She presented him with five more sons: Joseph, John, Peter, Solomon and Jacob.

The first son, Adam Yeager, became a naturalized citizen in 1730, married Susan Kobler, and had Michael, Barbara, John, Nicholas (2nd), Adam and Jodfrey.

Nicholas Yeager (2nd), born in 1735 in Virginia, married a woman named Wilhite and had a son, Solomon Yeager, born in 1756.

Solomon Yeager moved to Sparta, White County, Tenn., at an early date. He married Elizabeth Broyles and fathered 16 children: Solomon (2nd), Benjamin, Nicholas (3rd), Elias, Daniel, Joel, James, Eliza, Susan, Polly and Abigail who lived to adulthood. Five died in infancy.

Solomon lived to be 101 years old and died in western Tennessee in 1857. After the death of his first wife in 1845 he married 45-year-old Phoebe Hamilton in 1845 when he was 92 years of age.

Nicholas Yeager (3rd) (1784-1854) and his first wife Polly Robison (1787-1815) in Kentucky, had twins who died in infancy. Vincent, 1808; Louisa, 1809; Eliza, 1811; and a second set of twins, William Henry and Nancy, 1814. They had moved to Butler County, Ohio, in 1812 where Polly died and was buried.

His second wife, Henrietta Bailey (1787-1863), had: John, 1817; James Calvert, 1819; Mary, 1821; Clarissa, 1824; Clement, 1828; and Nicholas Solomon, 1831.

One account states that Nicholas (3rd) and his second wife moved from Ohio to Indiana and located at Terre Haute. They floated down the Big Miami River to the Ohio, on to the mouth of the Wabash River, and rowed upstream to Terre Haute in 1817. He bought a lot at Second and Poplar and put up a two-story hewed log house.

William Henry Harrison Yeager's account, written in 1888 or 1889, states: "I remember when they commenced building flat boats to run their corn to New Orleans. They only got 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents a bushel for their corn, and their pork brought from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per hundred pounds, delivered."

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"In the first settling of the country, people used to raise cotton. But it was quite a troublesome job to get the seeds from the main fibre. At first they picked them out with their fingers. That being so tedious, they invented an easier way. By turning two rollers the size of a chair rung and fastening in a small upright post, which turning, would take out the seeds by feeding the cotton between the rollers. But there was still another improvement in ginning the cotton. Shortly afterward, Isaiah Wilson, who lived down on Battle Row, sent and got a set of cotton gin saws and erected a gin

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house. He then ginned the neighbors' cotton either for a toll or for so much a pound. After that, domestic fabrics were brought in, and people got sale for their other products, so they began to buy their cotton goods, and soon Mr. Wilson's gin had stopped running, having nothing to do."

The journey of the Yeager

family was made in two pirogues hollowed out of two large poplar trees 40 to 45 feet long, made like dug-out canoes. Eighty-five-year-old Groom Bright Bailey, the blacksmith father of stepmother Henrietta, died on the river trip and was buried on the east bank of the Wabash river near New Harmony, Ind.

I found Life Difficult

Nicholas Yeager (3rd) found it so difficult to support a family in Terre Haute he decided to move to the country. In the spring of 1821 he moved his family to an eighty-acre farm located on the

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south edge of Vigo County, one and a half miles southeast of Prairie Creek, or Middletown, Ind. Here they cleared a garden spot and built a log house. The entire acreage was in timber when they bought it. Being an educated man (supposedly he spoke four languages), Nicholas became the first school teacher at Prairie Creek in the first little log school house in 1822. His son, Vincent Yeager, was the contractor and builder of a later school house erected near the first Baptist Church.

Nicholas (3rd)-lived on the

farm until 1836 and then sold out and moved with his family to Louisiana where he died in 1854. His second family was taken south with him, while the older children by the first wife stayed in Indiana.

An old diary, now in the possession of John B. Yeager of near Pineville, La., was written by one of the family of Nicholas and Henrietta (Bailey) Yeager on their way by boat from near Terre Haute to Louisiana. A part of the old diary has been lost.

"April 30, 1836 — Cloudy morning and went as far as

Owens in Rock (a town now on Ohio River in southern Illinois) . . . May first — Had a fine start and day . . . floated all day . . . May third — Entered the Mississippi River . . . floated well . . . May sixth — Had a very fine day; after we had landed late in the evening brother Nicholas (full name Solomon Nicholas Yeager) fell into the river. He arose three times and father caught him and brought him out. We all thought he was drowned. Mother was a praying for her babe. He was near five years old."

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On May seventh they passed Memphis. The next day they started early, laid by part of the evening and past Hellen in the forenoon of the 9th. They floated all day and landed below Arkansas City on the 10th. On the 12th they passed Bunches Bend, and called at Vicksburg on the 14th, and landed at Natchez the 16th. The next two days they were "stopped for wind" and passed Tunica on the 20th.

Here a part of the diary is missing, but on June 7th they

shipped on the "Caspian" for Alexandria, landing at Baton Rouge the 12th, entering the Red River the next day. They "unshipped at Alexandria" on the 16th and resided in Mr. Water's building until October 8th when they moved to Mr. Young's building.

On Oct. 26th "Father started on board of the "Aphoe" from Alexandria to go to Indiana." He was returning to Indiana for business reasons and to see the five children he had left in Indiana. A father of eleven living children had problems and responsibilities even in those days!

Cruft Family Bible Tells

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Much About Local History

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

A large red leather Bible decorated with gold tooling and the name "William S. Cruft" stamped in gold on the front cover was recently given to the Vigo County Historical Society by Mrs. Ida Fletcher of 1539 So. 14th St. The Bible was printed in Philadelphia, but there was no date to be found. Because of the very early records inscribed on the Family Records pages, the Bible would have been printed prior to 1825.

The first entry was "William Shaw Cruft and Eliza Blackburn were joined in marriage by the Rev. Samuel Hull on the first day of December, 1825, in Haddon Township, Sullivan County, State of Indiana."

William Shaw Cruft, the second son of John and Lucia Crocker Cruft, was born in Boston, Mass., on March 26th, 1803. Eliza Blackburn, the second daughter of William and Elizabeth Blackburn, was born in Hamilton Township, Butler County, State of Ohio, on the 22nd of August, 1807.

Their first child, John Foster Cruft, was born August 10, 1827, in Carlisle, Indiana. He died at the age of ten months. Their second child, Lucia Ann Cruft, was born June 16, 1829, in Carlisle. There is no further mention of her in the Bible.

Their third child, Elizabeth Blackburn Cruft, was born March 15, 1831, in Carlisle. She married George E. Brokaw in 1853 at her widowed mother's home on South 5th street, in Terre Haute. The fourth child, and third daughter, was born in 1833 and lived a few hours. The fifth child, Frances Ann Cruft, was born Jan. 3, 1835, in Carlisle. There is no further mention of her in the Bible.

The sixth child William Shaw Cruft was born Feb. 3 1837 in Carlisle and lived only 14 months.

The seventh and last child, again named for the father William Shaw Cruft, was born Dec. 19, 1838, in Carlisle. When he was 21 years old he was drowned while bathing in the Wabash river at Terre Haute on July 28th, 1859. He was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. All the previous family deaths had occurred at Carlisle, so they were buried in the Carlisle Burial Grounds.

The two brothers, prominent pioneer merchants, John F. and William S. Cruft, came to Terre Haute in 1823 and 1824. John F. Cruft was the older, having been born in 1800 in Boston, Mass.

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Their first store was on the corner of First and Water streets. In 1826 the store was a two-story frame building with a red roof half way between Second and Third on Ohio street.

In 1827 the firm established branch at Carlisle in charge of William S. Cruft. He was inclined to be literary in his tastes and in connection with W. D. Morgan established an academy at Carlisle. In 1845 he returned to Terre Haute where he died soon after, aged 43 years, and lies buried in Woodlawn.

From local history sourced there is much to be learned about the Cruft family. They obtained a tavern license in 1824. A copy of the WESTERN REGISTER dated July 28, 1827 has a notice of J. F. and W. S. Cruft. "Received by steamer WABASH, big stock of new goods—whiskey, beeswax, corn fed pork, flax and

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tow linen taken in exchange."

In 1828 John F. Cruft was Postmaster of Terre Haute until 1830 when President Jackson was elected. In later years he engaged in pork-packing was active in church affairs, and died in 1862. The Cruft pork-packing plant was on the river bank immediately above the Paddock and Company's plant.

Marriage records at the Courthouse show that Frances Cruft married Channing Seabury in 1870. Lucia E. Cruft married Charles F. Putnam in 1877.

Old county histories give more information about the Cruft family. One tells that Elizabeth B. Cruft graduated in 1848 at the first annual commencement of the Vigo County Seminary and read a composition. During the late 1850's Terre Haute society was at its best. Miss Cruft was among the many brilliant and beautiful young ladies listed at all the parties and balls.

Home Was Girls' School

The old Cruft homestead at the northeast corner of Sixth and Oak streets was built in 1838 by a Mr. Jackson for a Presbyterian school for girls, but was not opened as such, the house being sold shortly to John F. Cruft and occupied by the Cruft family until 1888, when J. W. Cruft sold the lot to Joseph Strong. The old house was then sold to Col. George H. Purdy, who moved it to a lot purchased of the Deming estate on the southwest corner of Center and Oak streets where it was remodelled into a double house.

Active in community affairs John F. Cruft was appointed in May, 1826 to the committee to build the new jail on the southwest corner of Third and Wabash.

He and his wife Elizabeth and Mary E. Cruft were charter members of the First Congregational Church organized here in 1834. In 1848 they were members of the colony which broke away from the First Congregational and organized the Presbyterian church here.

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Being educated ~~manners~~ with the New Englander's love of learning, Mr. Crufft gave his son Charles, born in Terre Haute on Jan. 12, 1826, all the advantages of our village schools. His early teachers were Miss Bishop, Charles T. Noble and W. D. Griswold who taught the classics at the Old Brick School House which John F. Crufft helped organize in 1827.

Charles Crufft was sent to Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Ind., and graduated with the class of 1843. After graduation he was assistant teacher in the Classical School taught by Rev. Robert Croes on the southeast corner of Third and Ohio streets.

He was employed as clerk in the State Bank, after which he studied law in the office of his old teacher W. D. Griswold and was admitted to the bar in 1848. For some time he was involved in railroad affairs. After this he formed a law partnership with John P. Baird. General Crufft's Civil War record gave him national prominence. He entered service Sept., 1861 as Colonel of the celebrated 31st Regiment, Ind. Vols.; and was with Grant at Fort Donelson, and Shiloh. For remarkable gallantry at Shiloh, Crufft was promoted to Brigadier General on July 16, 1862. He was active in Masonic affairs, the G.A.R. and other military organizations until his death Mar. 24, 1883.

There are still descendants of the Crufft family residing in this area.

Krumbhaar Family Played Role in Early Society

TS MAY 21 1972 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Little is known about the early Krumbhaar family who figured prominently in the early social life of Terre Haute.

In 1839 Mr. and Mrs. William H. Krumbhaar and two little boys, Butler and Theodore, arrived at the Prairie House, later known as the Terre Haute House. They were on their way from New Orleans north without definite plans where they would locate. They were so charmed with the hotel that they decided to remain in Terre Haute.

Built by Chauncey Rose, the Prairie House was far in advance of the commercial standing of the village. The fine hotel and superior cuisine were not the only reasons this cultured family decided to stay here. The little coterie who were then boarding at the hotel were people who would have graced any city, kind, gracious and to the manor born.

Among these were Mr. and Mrs. James Farrington, parents of Mrs. Mary Law, and Mr. George E. Farrington, Major and Mrs. David S. Danaldson, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, the latter later familiarly known as "Aunt Williams," a woman of remarkable character and presence, Major and Mrs. Greenough and Major Ogden, a bachelor.

Mrs. Krumbhaar was formerly Miss McCutcheon, of New Orleans, coming from a wealthy and aristocratic family. Her husband was a Philadelphian of German stock equally well born. His wholesale drug business had failed in Philadelphia. Mrs. Krumbhaar, although a southerner with her property and friends in Louisiana, did not want to live south of the Mason and Dixon line, because she did not wish to bring up her children where slavery was condoned. Her intuition told her that the system would lead to disaster, and she lived to suffer much loss of relatives and wealth by the Civil War.

Vincennes might have secured this family had it possessed as good a hotel as the Prairie House, for they stopped there first. During their stay at the Prairie House a daughter, Jennie, later Mrs. Herndon of New Orleans, was born in May, 1840. The next fall they went to housekeeping at the corner of 3rd and Ohio next to the "Old Curiosity Shop," the bank building of that day. This was then a red brick dwelling owned by Mr. Johnson, grandfather of Frank McKeen.

In November, 1840, there was a third birthday party for Theodore Krumbhaar. The



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next year the family took possession of the "Lord" cottage, later known as the "Early" home, at the corner of 7th and Ohio Sts. In October, 1843, twins were born, Mary Alice Caroline, later Mrs. George Rutledge Preston of Tuxedo, N. Y., and Louis Krumbhaar.

In the summer of 1843, Mr. Krumbhaar bought the place south of Terre Haute, known as "Greenwood" from a man by the name of Jackson. The main part of the house was there, but they added considerably to it, building the spacious east porch, kitchen and servants' rooms to the left of the house entirely detached. There was a covered way to it over a brick pavement. In the winter this was often icy, and years later Mrs. Krum-

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baa slipped and fell, breaking her hip.

The house was in bad shape and many repairs were necessary. While a new roof was put on, the James Farrington family kindly invited the family to stay with them at "Woodlawn" their large home on South 5th St. Louis, one of the twins, aged eleven months, died and was buried from the Farrington home.

Zelia, later Mrs. Doddridge Peet, who lived at Nice, France, was born at Greenwood. The three daughters, Jennie, Mollie and Zelia, also married there. The townspeople agreed that it was a delightful place to visit and the warmest and most graceful hospitality was kindly and graciously dispensed. But the Civil War made many sad changes and removed that charming family from Terre Haute.

Just before the turn of the century, Doddridge Peet, Jr., of New York, visited Terre Haute to see the home of his mother. Driving down the Prairieton Road the shabby house was plainly seen. Never at all handsome, the house was only remembered because of the charming people who lived there in the palmy days before the war. The once velvety lawn was scraggy and fenced off for horses and poultry.

During the Krumbhaar regime, clusters of pines and cedars untrimmed, with branches sweeping the ground, were growing near the road fence completely screening the yard and house. The entrance was at the corner with a broad, winding driveway to the house. Mr. Krumbhaar loved flowers and all living plants, so shrubs, vines and flower hedges were kept in perfect order. Orchards and fruit and vegetable gardens were also kept up.

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA
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Priest Traces the Life Of His Vigo Ancestors

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK Ts MAY 28 1972

Brother Andrew Mullen, C.P.P.S., of Ohio, spent his vacation time in June, 1970, touring Hoosier historical sights and those in particular that pertained to his family. After a short stay at Turkey Run State Park he drove to Terre Haute, and, in his own words, here is the account of his visit here.

"We drove out to St. Joseph's Cemetery — Woodlawn which is located right off U.S. 40 . . . we spent the next two hours searching for the family plots and other historical markers. The Mullen and Brandon plots were easily found. In the old Saint Joseph Cemetery section was the Mullen plot with the new memorial stones. There was the headstone the government had placed in tribute to Col. Bernard F. Mullen and the brand new Mullen family memorial stone with eight additional inscribed names of our loved ones . . . We put a small American flag at the head center of the Col. Mullen marker. Two other tiny American flags had been set on each side of the marker by either the cemetery caretakers or by members of the American Legion. We found the Kidd plot which is located in the Woodlawn section.

The family plot is still well taken care of by the city and the gravestones of our ancestors are in good condition. Some lovely ivy is growing at the side of the headstone of our great-grandmother Priscilla Kidd Leek. Trying to locate the Confederate Prisoner Civil War Monument was more difficult. While searching for this monument we came across the Union Soldiers burial plot where Corp'l. George E. Leek, Co. E, 31st Ind. Infantry is buried. He is Dad's step-grandfather, the husband of Priscilla Ann (Brandon) Kidd by second marriage."

"Later we hailed an old gentleman who lived across the street in the corner house outside the cemetery and asked him if he had ever heard of the Confederate Soldiers' Civil War Memorial. The old fellow was sitting on the porch and answered, "I remember my grandmother, Whose house this was, telling of the night burial of the Confederate soldiers who had died of typhoid fever near the cemetery gate. She had seen the bonfires, the tents and the shadowed figures of the Union soldiers going about their sad and lonely task of burying the dead."

He also said, "that for many, many long years after the Civil War on Memorial Day the G.A.R. had made a practise of marching in parade out to the cemetery to



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pay tribute to the deceased Union and Confederate soldiers who lay buried in the confines of Woodlawn. The marchers would stop at the Confederate Memorial. This noble and sacred practice came to an end in the 1930's as all the members of the G.A.R. were slowly dying off."

The old gentleman then told us the section of the cemetery and pointed out where we would locate the Confederate Memorial. Our great-grandfather, Colonel Bernard F. Mullen, was Union commandant of the Confederate Pris-

Continued On Page 3, Col. 2.

Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

on Camp at Terre Haute in February of 1862. In the official prison report he mentions the names and the deaths of these same Confederate soldiers which are inscribed on the memorial.

After leaving the cemetery we drove out to the site of Col. Mullen's old home on Liberty Avenue. There is a house still standing on the exact spot and address, but is probably a remodeled or re-added home. The back of the house looks like it might have been built in the latter 1800's, the time of occupancy of our Mullen family. The house is about two blocks from the railroad tracks. We also went by 13½ St., where Grandma Naomi Kidd used to live at one time."

The first memorial to the 11 Confederate prisoners of war who died here in 1862 at the old Farrington-Williams Pork House which served as the rebel prison was a small signal monument on the south side of the street running west from the main entrance. These men were buried as paupers in a row along the front fence line just south of the gate house. The bronze plaques on the stone were stolen by vandals and later recovered in the Wabash river bottoms and vanished yet again and lost to history.

A new and larger monument was erected in 1951 and suitably dedicated in October of that year. It still stands in the circle, a point in the cemetery where Third Avenue and Second Street would intersect.

All but one of the men were captured in the battle in eastern Tennessee. The exception was John R. Holcomb, Company G, Twentieth Mississippi Regiment. The others were members of Company A, Ninth Battalion, Tennessee Regiment. They were: John L. Johnson, Robert H. Maxwell, Guilford D. Nunnally, William P. Thogmorton, George N. Zollivoffer (brother of General Zollicoffer of the Confederate Army), Thomas S. Davidson, Isaac M. Foster, Thomas S. Bryan, Benjamin F. Cockrell and Francis M. Gallager.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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Known as "Camp Harrison" the local prison camp for Confederate soldiers captured by the Union forces at the surrender of Fort Donelson, Tenn., was guarded by the 61st Indiana Volunteers. At one time there were approximately 800 rebel prisoners confined in the old pork-packing plant which had been converted to a stockade prison camp.

That only 11 prisoners died here was a miracle. The captured men were dressed in light clothing more suitable for the southern climate than Hoosier winters. They had been ill-fed, undernourished, and in spite of the good care, warm quarters and good food and medical care, influenzas and fevers carried off the weaker ones. There were no antibiotics in Civil War days.

Those readers wishing to see the Confederate monument in Woodlawn Cemetery should drive in and go west to the main cross road, then turn left or south and drive to the circle.

Richey Family History Told in Old Letter

IS JUN 1 1 1972

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK T JUN 3 1972

Over a century ago a young widower Abijah Richey and his small son William came to Vigo County from Kentucky to be with relatives. He married Purlina Richey, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Richey, who are buried in the old Brown Cemetery. Abijah Richey was born in Kentucky in 1840, the son of Jesse and Elizabeth (Young) Richey.

He fought in the Civil War, had a severe case of measles at Cumberland Gap, and was medically discharged and sent home. He later drew a pension, and was a charter member of the General Cruft Post No. 284, G.A.R., at Centerville, which was organized in 1884.

Abijah and Purlina had ten children. Jesse and Virgil died young, but the remaining eight grew to adulthood. Mary (Richey) Molzen married a fine young Swede, had three children and lived in Illinois. James H. Richey opened a country store in Lewis, Ind. Leanna (Richey) Smith, Elizabeth (Richey) Brown, and Lulu (Richey) Brown all became housewives and mothers. Adrian Richey became a funeral director. Eli Noble Richey and Delma Richey became rural mail carriers. All the children attended the Shary Grove church and school. The oldest son William Richey operated a restaurant and hotel at Farmersburg.

The fifth child, Eli N. Richey, became a trustee of Pierson township, and later worked as clerk for County Treasurer Oscar Leek. His daughter, Ruth Richey Metcalf, loaned me a letter written by her paternal grandparents Abijah and Purlina to their son James and their daughter Mary who had gone to seek employment and live with relatives near Arthur, Illinois.

Dated November 24, 1889, the letter begins "Dear Son and Daughter, I will drop you a few lines.

We are all well but your Mother James, your wheat looks fine . . . we made about one thousand gallons of molasses and sold all but about twenty-five gallons . . . sold 167 bushels of apples . . . 80 bushels at 35 and 40 cents. I have sold eleven hogs . . . got \$58 for them. I kept eight that will not 1600. The colery (cholera) killed the hogs all around us and still rages here.



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"Our corn is very light and soft. I still got all of my hay. They quit buying here.

"Mary and James, I do not write much but I think about you many times. Son, your girl came to see us. Mary, you best not hire long at a time as you don't know what may happen. If you see your Uncle Andy tell him we live in Pierson Township, Lewis Post Office . . . tell your Aunt Lizzie we would like to see her. Tell Eli I am sorry his health is so bad . . . (signed) Your Father, Abijah Richey."

Following the above, Purlina wrote "I am well as common, only homesick to see you both . . . I never seen so long a time in my life as you have been gone. Mary, if you knew how lonesome I am without you children you would know I wouldn't want you to hire for no two or three years. That is too long." She continued with bits of

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neighborhood news before signing "Your Mother."

During the late 1880's farm prices reached the lowest level in many years. World markets were flooded with grain and cotton. Wheat dropped to 50 cents a bushel, cotton to 6 cents a pound. Corn was so cheap in the Midwest

that farmers burned it for fuel.

Railroad rates, interest rates, and tax rates remained high. No matter how hard they toiled, most farmers got into debt and stood in continual danger of losing their farms.

Probably the worst depression this country had yet suffered gripped the United States in the Panic of 1893. Business firms crashed, banks failed, factories shut down, mortgages were foreclosed.

Thousands of unemployed walked the streets looking for jobs that did not exist. President Cleveland, like other conservative men of his day, thought the storm had to blow itself out. For two years conditions grew worse. Farm prices fell still lower and there were still more wage cuts and unemployment.

Abijah Richey was a farmer in Pierson Township, owned a large orchard, and raised cane for his sorghum mill. His farm was located two

miles northwest of Lewis. As his letter mentioned, he sold gallons of molasses. He also ground the cane for other people and made molasses on a share basis or for cash. With times as hard as they were in the 1880's, it is no wonder two of his nine children struck out from home to see if they could make money and help themselves and their family.

Abijah Richey died in 1920 at the age of eighty and was buried in the Taylor Cemetery in Pierson Township. His two brothers, Calib and Alfred,

and his sister, Rachel (Richey) Green, came to Vigo County also. Only one sister, Ann (Richey) Robey, stayed in Kentucky.

Jesse B. Richey was the caretaker of the Oak Hill Cemetery for several years and lies buried there with his wife Hannah. One of the Richey families lived in the first house west of the Oak Hill Church.

Clark, Dorothy

Community Affairs File

Letters Seek Information

About Local Ancestors

By DOROTHY J. CLARK TS FEB 11 1973

A local historian gets much interesting mail. Some letters give me ideas for future columns; some give me a headache trying to research the problems; all require answers.

From Stockton, N.J., came information about the Bridwell and Beauchamp families. The letter-writer had visited here to tend the graves in Woodlawn Cemetery of her grandparents Sam L. and Euseba (Beauchamp) Bridwell and her great-grandparents Isaac and Ophelia (McCandless) Beauchamp.

Isaac Beauchamp arrived in Terre Haute from Kentucky in 1851 with his ten children and a nephew. He belonged to the Methodist church here and operated a livery stable on North Sixth street between Eagle and Chestnut. His son, William T., joined him in this business and took it over in 1874. Isaac died in 1889 and was buried in Woodlawn.

His nephew, Emery P. Beauchamp, who came with him from Kentucky, is listed in the Terre Haute Directory of 1871 as "Attorney-at-law and

Western Land Broker." He does not appear in the directory again until 1880 when he is listed as a lawyer, residing at 1214 South Sixth, with his wife Paula. According to the family, Emery Beauchamp was ambassa-

dor or consul to Germany and his wife Paula was a German woman he met there. She was said to be a cousin of the Kaiserine. In 1882, Emery was listed as editor and proprietor of the "Saturday Evening Mail" which had offices at the northwest corner of Fifth and Main. He is said to have died soon after in an asylum in Indianapolis (of unsound mind.)



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Ophelia (McCandless) Beauchamp died in 1879 and is buried in Woodlawn. One tombstone on the family plot was illegible, so a rubbing was made which revealed it was for John Beauchamp probably the oldest son of Isaac and Ophelia, who was a soldier in the Civil War. He died in Tennessee of chronic dysentery and his body was moved six months later to Woodlawn.

Further correspondence revealed there was considerable information on the Beauchamp family in Kentucky, and earlier in Delaware and Maryland. Sam L. Bridwell was secretary-treasurer of the Terre Haute Iron and Nail Works.

From Dallas, Texas, came a letter requesting help in tracing a man by the name of George J. DeWald. His wife, Martel (McBride) DeWald, was killed in a train-car collision in Terre Haute in the early 1930s.

A letter from Arcadia, Fla.,

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asked for the marriage record of Dr. John Wesley Kemp and Mary Jane Tremel. c

Many persons need to furnish evidence of Delaware Indian ancestry. One such person in Bluejacket, Okla., was seeking information concerning her great-great-grandmother, Polly Adams Dodge Buck McDougal, who is shown on a census record to be at least half or possibly full-blood Delaware Indian.

Polly is buried at Russell Creek Cemetery near Welch, Okla., and her tombstone shows she was born 1809, died 1873. She was married three times. First to George Dodge and they had at least two children, Eliza June (Dodge) Mills and Mary Jane (Dodge) Summers. The second marriage was to a Mr. Buck, possibly in Nevins township. There are several early Adams families in Vigo County. Two families were settled near Fort Harrison and "cultivated lands under its protection in 1811." In 1816 William Adams came from Kentucky and settled in Nevins Townships.

Irish Ancestors

Many letters concern Irish immigrant ancestry. An Indianapolis man wrote to me concerning his grandmother, Mary Cusick, who was born in Zanesville, Ohio, in 1857. The 1880 census shows her living in Terre Haute, aged 23 years, single, a servant, and living on Main Street. Her parents were born in Ireland. The next year she mar-

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ried Daniel Webster McCarthy who was born in 1847 in Ireland and died in 1943 in Terre Haute. They were married at St. Joseph's Catholic church, and had two children, Roscoe and Mary, and then a third child was born in Danville, Ind. During World War I the family lived in Brazil, Ind. Does anyone know when and where Mary Cusick McCarthy died? She had a brother Phillip Cusick, a sister Rosita Cusick, and several half brothers and sisters named Sweeney. Patrick McCarthy came here in 1850 from COUNTY Cork Ireland.

A letter from San Diego, Calif., asked for information on the life of Charles Newell Gould, "the original builder of the four first buildings of St. Mary-of-the-Woods. He

also trained boys who became Civil War soldiers." According to family tradition, he built many business houses here, was an artist using colored ink with pen sketchings, a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Republican party, and the Methodist Church. Mr. Gould came to his death through a fall between joists in an uncompleted building. His daughter Henrietta (Gould) Elliott died in 1929 at the age of 91 years.

I was able to find some information in our local records about C. N. Gould. He was born in New Jersey, but emigrated to this area in 1816. He was listed as 60 years old at the Old Settlers' Meeting in 1875. His occupation was builder.

According to a county history, Gould, a bricklayer and mason, lived at 452 N. 4th St. He was born in the town

of Colwell, Morris County, N. J., in 1815. His father, Aaron Gould, came to the Wabash Valley in the fall of 1816, and first settled in what was known as the Compton settlement, then in Edwards County, Illinois, but now Wabash County. He lived there about two years and then moved to Mt. Carmel.

Quite a Traveler

When Charles N. was 20 years old he left home and spent about two years traveling back and forth between Fort Gibson, Claybourne County, Mississippi, and Mt. Carmel and Terre Haute. He first came to Terre Haute in April, 1835. He was first married at Mt. Carmel in 1838 to Miss Eliza J. Runion and moved to Terre Haute in 1843. His first wife died in 1854. Of their six children, only two lived to adulthood. Henrietta at North Vernon, Ind., and Augusta

Ann in N. J.

Mr. Gould married again to Mrs. Delia Ryan of Terre Haute. She and her former husband, John Ryan, were born and raised in County Roscommon, Ireland, married there and emigrated to America in 1840. John Ryan was principal of the school at Rockville and later editor of the newspaper at Vicksburg, Miss.

Charles N. Gould learned his trade as bricklayer and mason at the age of fifteen years from his father. When he came to Terre Haute in 1835 the land north of Main St. was covered with brush and grapevines. He cut a road through to haul brick to lay the foundations of houses on North 4th St. He helped build the towns of Mt. Carmel, Paris and Charleston, Ill., and Princeton, Ind., working principally on

churches, courthouses, etc., and he helped to build as many or more buildings in Terre Haute than any other man in the city. The early city hall and market house was his last contract as a builder. He helped build the First Congregational Church. Up to 1845 there was no school north of Main St., and Gould was the originator of, and the builder of the first school which stood on the southwest corner of Third and Locust Sts. By his last marriage he had three children: Charles Edward, and twins Alfred and Albert. Charles became a musician; Alfred was in the boot and shoe business on the corner of Fourth and Ohio, and Albert was a bookkeeper.

Next week's column will continue with more from the mailbag about early people in the Wabash Valley. . .

Foulkes Family Came to Terre Haute Century Ago

Community Affairs File

TS APR 29 1973 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Clippings from an old family scrapbook helped piece together the story of the early Foulkes family and the important part they played in the development of Terre Haute.

John Foulkes was born May 10, 1837, in Brosley, Staffordshire, England in the heart of the great English manufacturing region. At the age of 15 he began working in the famous china factory of John Rose at Coalport, England.

Later he was employed at Bridge North with several of his brothers in the iron mills and became foreman of one of the large English steel plants.

In 1863 he came to America with his wife Louisa and two small sons, Arthur and George, aged two and one year. They traveled on the largest ship at that time, the "Great Eastern," and settled at Pittsburgh where John obtained employment in a large iron works. The Civil War was raging at this time and he helped to throw up the entrenchments of that city.

After a year they moved to Newcastle, Pa., for two years, and from there to Akron, Ohio where they lived for seven years.

In 1873 John Foulkes came to Terre Haute to make his home "in the city of beer and soot." He worked for A. J. Crawford at the old Wabash Iron Works for nine years, from 1874 to 1883, as a heat-treater. Crawford was then piloting the north rolling mill through the early days of its existence.

John Foulkes' wife Louisa died in 1876 leaving six children: Arthur E., George C., S. Louisa, Harvey S., Harry J., and Fred. W.

The eldest son Arthur died in 1883 of typhoid fever at Hannibal, Mo., where he was paymaster for the Hannibal & Keokuk Railroad. This same year John Foulkes left the iron works to enter the real estate business.

According to local city directories, John and his family lived on the east side of Fifth street north of Elm when they first came to town. In 1877 they lived at 738 N. 4th and 16-year-old Arthur was a printer at the TERRE HAUTE JOURNAL. Next they moved to 720 N. 5th, 724 N. 5th, and 415 N. 3rd before settling in at 415 1/2 Ohio where John lived until 1904 when he built his home at 900 S. 17th.

Office on Ohio

John Foulkes was a rental and collecting agent first. In 1885 he was listed as "real estate, loan, rental and collecting agent," with his office at 329 1/2 Ohio. Two years later he had taken a partner, Thomas F. Donham, and the firm Foulkes & Donham was located at 411 Ohio.



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In 1890 Foulkes, Dahlen & Greiner, rental and collecting agents, were located at 511 Ohio. His partners were Richard Dahlen and William H. Greiner. Foulkes & Dahlen were also insurance agents.

Four years later John and his son Frederick William were handling all the business at 511 Ohio. In 1896 John Foulkes and Joseph Elder were partners, but this partnership only lasted two years. From 1901 until his death, John operated his business office alone.

John Foulkes died Nov. 18, 1913, aged 78 years, from the results of head injuries received in an accident while driving in his buggy which was hit by an auto.

Survived by his second wife Emma and five children, John Foulkes left an estimated \$50,000 estate, mainly real estate holdings such as the valuable Union Block on Ohio St. west of St. Joseph's Church. The estate also included 22 pieces of property including his residence, apartment buildings and business buildings.

The careers of the children of John Foulkes were as varied as their father's, but always steadily more successful with the passing years. Miss Sarah Louise stayed at home and kept house for the family through 1887 when her name dropped from the city directory. In 1898 she was living in Denver, Colo., and at the time of her father's death she was living in Seattle, Wash.

Harvey L. Foulkes started out as a clerk in 1883 for James Nichols, "grocer, fresh and cured meats, hay and feed," at 400-402 S. 1st. Nichols also manufactured flour barrels at 311 S. 2nd St.

The next year Harvey was a clerk at Gulick & Co., drugs, paints, oil and glass at 330 Main, where he stayed until 1894 when he opened his own drug store at 401 N. 4th St. At the time of his father's death he was in the Coca-Cola business at Wilmington, Del.

Frederick William Foulkes began his working days as an insurance solicitor for his father in 1894 and moved on to Chicago with the Phoenix Insurance Co. He was in Billings, Mont., when his father died in 1913.

Other Sons' Careers

John Harry Foulkes (or Harry J.) started working as a clerk at the Foulkes & Morris grocery store, 417 Ohio in 1885. In 1890 he was hired as a clerk by William M. Schluer, hats, caps and men's furnishings, 619 Wabash. The next year the firm became Schluer & Foulkes until 1901 when the firm became Foulkes Bros. at 631 Wabash. He married Caroline Preston in 1898.

George Clark Foulkes began his working career in 1880 as a laborer at the Wabash Iron Works with his father. The next year he became a clerk for Hertfelter & Wurster leaving the grocery business. In 1885, with Jeff D. Morris, Foulkes & Morris Grocers opened at 417 Ohio. About the turn of the century, Morris opened a grocery in the Deming Block and George C., with his brother Harry J., opened Foulkes Bros., Hats, caps, Men's Furnishings & Merchant Tailors.

George also formed a partnership with Grant Forbes in 1904 and the Foulkes, Forbes Co. "Paving contractors and concrete works" began operations. He also opened his own real estate and loan office, all at the same address, 631 Wabash.

In 1910 the Foulkes Contracting Co. with George C. as president and treasurer; Emory Bard, secretary, paving contracting and sewer work, located offices at 513 Terre Haute Trust Bldg. In 1915 they moved to 705 Ohio.

In 1907 the Foulkes' oil well on N. 9th St. between Cherry and Mulberry was steadily producing 25 barrels a day. Costing \$7,000 to drill this well was 1,625 ft. deep. Terre Haute's last oil well, it was torn down in April, 1930.

In 1909 the Terre Haute Pure Milk Co. opened for business. Its president was George C. Foulkes. In 1912 the old Roberts Hotel at Seventh and Ohio changed its name to the Commercial Hotel. It was owned by George C. Foulkes.

He took over the management of his father's estate and in 1927 owned 74 pieces of property, mostly business buildings.

Active in all phases of community life, George C. Foulkes served on the Board of Cemetery Regents under Mayor McMillan.

In 1936 his company built the viaduct east of Terre Haute at Glenn. Earlier he built the 90 modern bungalows in the Connery Subdivision opposite the Grasselli Plant when it was new in World War I days. This is now known as Spelterville.

Born in England in 1862, Mr. Foulkes became a United States citizen in 1943, when he was 81 years old. He lived to enjoy his citizenship for several more years.

George C. Foulkes married Miss Clara L. Fisbeck in 1887. Their son George C., Jr. married Marie E. Monninger, daughter of Albert R. and Lena (Dressler) Monninger. Another son Arthur was killed in the air crash with Bernard "Doc" Allen at Dresser Field, Aug. 10, 1930. Arthur Foulkes left a five-year-old son, George Arthur Foulkes, local radio and television station owner, who is following in the footsteps of his grandfather George C. and his great-grandfather John in promoting the development and betterment of Terre Haute.

Community Affairs File

Patriots and Pioneers

In the Scott Family

By DOROTHY J. CLARK Ts MAY 27 1973

Last week's column told of Vigo County's first volunteer in the Civil War, Frank Crawford Scott, who died in service, and his brother, Samuel Crawford Scott, who also served in Company C, Eleventh Indiana volunteers.

They were sons of General John Scott and his wife Margaret Cunningham. John Scott was born in Saratoga County, New York, June 17, 1793, and at the early age of 19 entered the military service in the war of 1812 which was declared June 16, 1812. He was a member of Captain Hawkins' company of New York militia from Herkimer county, and was in the battle at the attack of Sackett's Harbor of May 29, 1813.

The British forces had matters their own way on the lake, and volunteers from our land forces were called for, for service on the water, and young Scott was one out of 19 who took his life in his hands for the hazardous and forlorn duty, against the urgent protest and tears of an elder brother who was with him. The British commander, however, did not return to make the second attack on the Harbor.

Deciding to join his brother, Lucius H. Scott, a resident of Terre Haute since 1817, John left New York and traveled to Pittsburgh where he remained some time in business. Traveling the water route via the Ohio and Wabash rivers, John Scott settled briefly in Vincennes before traveling on to Terre Haute in 1826. For several years he was engaged in the river trade, carrying the products of Wabash farms to a market at New Orleans.

He became a partner with his brother in one of the first retail and wholesale grocery businesses here in the old Sparks' building at the southwest corner of Third and Ohio streets. Immediately after the completion of the Terre Haute & Richmond railroad (later called the Vandalia) in 1851, John Scott was elected treasurer serving until 1867 when he was succeeded by Moses Williams.

On retiring from the railroad he went into the stove business with his sons. Some of his other activities being stockholder in the Terre Haute Branch of the State Bank (Memorial Hall now); a First Lieutenant in the Silver Greys, a military unit of elderly men who wished to serve as a home guard; and in 1841 he



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was listed as proprietor of the Pavilion Hotel, formerly John Burton's Hotel. At that time there were only two other downtown hotels listed: the National, William McFadden, landlord, and the Wabash, William P. Dole, landlord. During the early days he made several trips to New Orleans taking care of his river commerce trade.

His brother Lucius H. Scott left New York in 1817 with John W. Osborn. By schooner they went to the mouth of the Genesee River, on foot to Rochester, and to Olean Point, the head of navigation on the Allegheny, where they joined an emigrant family in building a boat to float down the river

they took a raft of pine timber to Cincinnati, being two weeks on the raft, and journeyed on to Madison in a skiff. Selling the skiff for a dollar they loaded their baggage on a wagon and tramped to Vincennes.

Being a printer by trade, Osborn found employment in Vincennes, but Scott saw no opening and proceeded on to Terre Haute, where he had a friend John Burton. Arriving here early in June, 1817, after walking three days with a

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Clark, Dorothy
knapsack on his back, he was ill and Dr. William Clark, military surgeon at Fort Harrison was credited with saving his life.

Lucius Scott taught school in Honey Creek for a time before opening a store. He rented a room from Dr. Modesitt, put in counter and shelves, brought up a stock from Vincennes and representing the firm of Wasson & Sayre, displayed the first stock of merchandise offered for sale in Terre Haute on New Years Day, 1818. After only four months business, he was appointed county agent by the board of commissioners and deputy sheriff by Sheriff Blackman. He became the first elected sheriff in 1818.

In 1822 Lucius Scott was elected to represent Vigo and Parke counties in the legislature at Corydon. That fall he opened a stock of goods at Roseville by arrangement with Josephus Collett and lived there until 1826.

His two-story brick home was built on the southwest corner of Third and Ohio Sts., one of the first brick buildings in town. He married Jane C. Breading, who died in 1835, and later married Eliza Linton. He spent his later years in Philadelphia where he died April 22, 1875.

John Scott's obituary after his death Dec. 7, 1880, revealed more about his life here. After he retired from the railroad, and the stove business, he took the old wig-wam on Main Street and engaged in the sale of agricultural implements. In the great fire which swept almost everything on the north side of Main, between Sixth and Seventh, his stock was burned, and he remained out of business from that time on until the time of his death.

His military title was given to him when he was elected general of state militia. Because of his military service in the War of 1812 he was

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Collection Tells of Early Railroader, Planing Mill

Clark Dorothy

15 MAR 5 1974

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

A recent addition to the genealogy collection of the Vigo County Historical Society's library are three volumes — "Somers-Summers Families," "Descendants of Richard and Penelope Stout," and "Clift and Allied Families." They are the gift of Herbert M. Baganz and Belle Summers Baganz, of Lafayette, Ind.

The first volume tells of the English, American and German branches of the Somers-Summers families back to Sir Richard le Somer in the 14th century.

The second volume tells of eight generations of the Stout family including their relationship with Abraham Lincoln.

The third volume tells of the Clift family as well as pioneer Indiana railroad engineer, Andrew Walker. Several Revolutionary soldiers are found in these lines. Parke and Vigo county settlers, as well as the Carter, Ball, and Lee families of Virginia.

One local connection begins with Michael Summers (1784-1859) who married Clarissa Bell (1785-1860). Both were born in Virginia, migrated to Terre Haute, and died here. One of their ten children, Emily, married William Stout Clift, and they were the grandparents of Belle Summers Baganz.

Wm. Stout Clift came from Washington, Mason county Ky., to Terre Haute in June 1852. He had learned milling from his wife's cousin, Thomas Summers, whose wife was the daughter of



DOROTHY J.
CLARK

Nathaniel Hixson who had the first water mill for grinding grain in Mason county. Instead of establishing a mill here, Clift decided to go into building and manufacturing supplies because of the rapid increase in population and the great demand for homes here.

Traveling by steam boat down the Ohio river to Madison, Ind., and then by railroad to Indianapolis and on to Terre Haute, Clift arrived here with his wife and two children, spent a few days at the Bunting House on South 3rd St., then lived for the rest of the summer in Mr. Clayton's house on 5th St.

Early in the fall of 1852, the Clift family moved to the corner of 4th and Chestnut Sts., in a double brick house. The Hulman family occupied the other side of the double house. Next Spring Mr. Clift built a home near Rev. Jewell out on the prairie, now 13th and Chestnut Sts., where he lived until his death. His wife, the former Miss Emily Summers, whom he married in 1842, gave him three children: Gilbert, who died in 1865; Mary Bell, who married Leroy B. Cox, of Chicago; and John M. Clift, who became his father's business partner.

Mr. Clift praised this community so highly in letters to his brothers and sisters that in 1855 his youngest brother, Samuel, came to Terre Haute. Later his other three brothers and his four sisters came to Indiana. The brothers and two

sisters located in Henry county, two sisters on farms near Indianapolis. After the Civil War, two brothers, Mason and Walter W., came to Terre Haute where they lived the rest of their lives.

Uncle Billy Clift, described as a portly gentleman with genial, kindly features, and a hearty laugh, was a hard worker and very successful in the business of contracting, building and owner of a planing mill. He was born in Mason county, Ky., on July 2, 1815, the son of Nelson and Elizabeth Clift. From 1852 to 1864 he worked as a contractor and builder before building his frame planing mill at 123 N. 9th St. A year later J. H. Williams became his partner.

When the mill was totally destroyed by fire on July 10, 1884, Messrs. Clift, Williams & Co. (John Clift had then taken into partnership) immediately cleared away the ruins and built an even larger mill.

Mr. Clift never had any political aspirations but was pulled from retirement in 1872 and elected a member of the Council from the Fifth Ward. As police commissioner he made a record for himself as a man of courage and conviction. For many years he served as president of the Vigo Agricultural Society. He was a member of the First Baptist church, a Mason, and a prelate of Terre Haute Com-

mandery, Knights Templar. He died in 1888 and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery with his wife who died in 1893.

Walker Family

Andrew Walker, aged 18, arrived in Madison, Ind., to join his brothers Peter and John in 1849. The family home was near Glasgow, Scotland. The older brothers had emigrated 10 years earlier to work on the railroad. Peter had died before Andrew's arrival. John was employed on the Madison & Indianapolis Railway line. For the next four years Andrew worked at the North Madison Round House, and became a fireman on the wood burning engines of that day. He later advanced to railway engineer. After five years of railroading he resigned in 1854 to return to Scotland to visit his family and friends.

On the return voyage to America the sailing ship suffered storm damage and after three weeks was forced to return to home port for repairs of water leaks. The passengers all took turns at the pumps to keep the ship from foundering.

About the same time a cousin of Walker's, John Walker, came to America. A miner in Scotland, he located near Brazil and put down one of the first coal shafts in Clay County, Ind. Andrew's brother, John Walker, retired from the railroad to a farm near Madison, Ind.

After his visit to Scotland, Andrew Walker returned to Madison and continued working for the railroad as an engineer. In 1855 he married Hannah Bishop, daughter of Joel Bishop of Canaan.

Train Wreck

In 1862, at the time of John Morgan's Raid, Walker was almost involved in a serious train wreck caused by their destruction of the tracks. He moved to Indianapolis and managed a farm located where the Indiana Fairgrounds are now at 38th St. The owner of the farm, Hugh Thompson, had a brother who was a baker in Scotland. He started a bakery on S. Meridian St., the first block south of Washington, making Thompson butter, graham crackers, and "hardtack" for the northern armies

Railroading offered more attraction than farming, so Andrew returned as an engineer for the third time, working for the Bee Lines from Indianapolis to Richmond and later on the Vandalia from Indianapolis to St. Louis. In 1899 his home was in Terre Haute. While in Indianapolis he contracted typhoid fever, and was returned to his daughter's home here where he died.

Andrew Walker had served almost 50 years as a Railroad engineer. In his 45 years of traveling over a million miles as engineer he was never involved in a serious train wreck. He had figured in some hairbreadth escapes, for railroading at that time was a hazardous occupation. Safety methods were not employed in the early days.

Andrew's wife had preceded him in death in 1890. His daughter, Georgeanna, had married John McCalla Clift, partner in the Clift, Williams & Co. Planing Mill. The Walkers are buried in Highland Lawn Cemetery.

Mary Bell Clift Cox (Mrs. Leroy B.) (1847-1932) was a life member of the Vigo County Historical Society and an active genealogist. She began compiling the family records in the 1920's. She inspired the organization of the Stout Family Historical Association which is still active in Hopewell, N. J.

Any of these family genealogies can be consulted at the Historical Museum, 1411 S. 6th St., on Sunday through Friday (closed Saturday) from 1 to 4 p.m.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

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Peddle Account Tells Of Hoosier Immigration

Peddle Family

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

TO APR 28 1974

Over twenty years ago, Miss Juliet Peddle presented to me a copy of a little book entitled "The Story of a Hoosier Immigration," printed in 1939 as a memorial to Caroline Peddle Ball.

The writer, Mary Elizabeth Peddle, grandmother of Miss Juliet Peddle, wrote the story in 1904 and never expected her account of the family to reach a printer. She described how the Richardson family left New York State in 1816 to found a home in the newly established State of Indiana.

The author obtained her information from her aunts, uncles and her mother, the "little Betty" mentioned in the story, only six years old at the time of the journey west.

The mother in the story was Mrs. Joseph Richardson who, when her husband was detained by illness, dauntlessly surmounted the hardships of an Indian war in a strange land to establish a new home.

Little Betty was the daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Richardson, who grew up to marry Dr. Edward Voorhees Ball. The author of the book was their daughter, Mary Elizabeth (Ball) Peddle, grandmother of Miss Juliet Peddle.

Dr. Ball's home was built "just a stone's throw from the water's edge of the Wabash river." This over-



DOROTHY J.
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worked physician built a large home and laid out its ground on a grand scale for the pioneer times. His garden featured rare shrubs and trees, dwarf fruit trees, trained as pyramids, verticle and horizontal cordons, both double and single, and other espaliers of the choicest European and native varieties of fruits. Along with his Scottish gardener, Dr. Ball spent every possible spare moment working in his beloved garden.

Dr. Ball's father had planned for his son a future as a

farmer. The boy wished to study medicine, but consent to this course was withheld until his father found him studying Latin as he ploughed the fields, reins around his neck so that while he guided the plough with his right hand, his left was free to hold the Latin grammar. Dr. Ball became known for miles around Terre Haute as a physician greatly above the average in knowledge and skill.

The family remembered the railroad right-of-way cut through the lovely garden on what was to become known as 1st St. Freight trains ran over the rails laid within 20 feet of Dr. Ball's imposing front door.

On the other side of 1st St., where once had flourished trellises of pears, apples, nectarines and peaches, a row of ramshackle buildings cropped up, and there was soon nothing to indicate that a well-tended drive had once swept up to the front door, steps from which now descended directly upon the sidewalk. It must have been heartbreaking for the planner to see all the beauty he had striven for wiped out by such sordid ugliness.

The new part of the house also was planned on rather sumptuous lines. The drawing room, 45 feet in length, had two fireplaces and above this, two huge bedrooms. The door to the "backroom" was up three steps from the landing of the back stairway, the only stairway of the original dwelling. This room was furnished with tall built-in wardrobes and a huge four-poster canopied bed.

In 1816, the year the Richardson family left New York, all the country west of the state of Ohio, and parts of Ohio, was a trackless wilderness. Even farther east there were few roads and bridges. In what was then called the "far west," no wagon could get through the thick growth of trees and underbrush. A man on horseback would think himself

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Dorothy Clark

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TO APR 28 1974

fortunate if he found a bridle path.

Mrs. Peddle's account begins with the condition of the Wabash Valley before the building of Fort Harrison and the events leading to the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Joseph Richardson lived in Williamsburg, N.Y. A rich man, he owned a dry goods store, a hotel and a distillery, besides his home and other property. He sold his homestead to a brother of Charles Carroll, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. As Mr. Carroll wished to take possession soon after buying, Mr. Richardson moved his family to the town of Geeseeo, N.Y., where he rented one side of a large double house. A friend, Major Abraham Markle, and his family occupied the other side.

Here they lived until the spring of 1815, when Mr. Richardson set out on horseback for the territories with four other men. They were Major Markle, Captain Bigger, Mr. Harris and the name of the fourth man was learned later to be Daniel Stringham. Traveling by compass, they tackled a long dangerous journey.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FILE
Vanderburgh County Public Library

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The author's granddaughter of Joseph Richardson, often wondered why her grandfather decided to leave New York where he was well off and buy 22 sections of land in the Indiana-Illinois wilderness, investing over \$15,000, a fortune in those days. A short time after his purchase, government land grants were issued which brought the price of western land down to a much lower figure than he had paid. Even when he began harvesting crops there was no one in the vicinity to buy . . . at least not for ten years.

Soon Richardson began building flat boats which he loaded with wheat and corn and live hogs, engaged crews and floated downriver to New Orleans. There he sold his cargoes and boats and bought household supplies with the money — uttins, cloth, head-gear, silks, muslins, cottons, shoes, barrels of sugar and molasses, spices, raisins, citron, kits of mackerel, coffee, tea and all kinds of liquors and wines. He returned by steamboat with enough of everything to make the family comfortable for a year, with ample margin for entertaining guests, for he was a very hospitable man. Joseph Richardson finally located at

More next week . . .

Peddle Family Community Affairs File

Hoosier Immigration Story Is Continued This Week

TS MAY 5 1974 (By DOROTHY J. CLARK)

The little book "Story of a Hoosier Immigration" written by the grandmother of Miss Juliet Peddle was really never intended for the public, but only for the enjoyment of the family. However, in later years, it was decided by the Peddle family to have it published so more interested people might learn of one family's trials and tribulations in coming out from the east to the Wabash Valley.

When Joseph Richardson set out from New York to explore the land buying possibilities in the Indiana-Illinois country in the spring of 1815, he was accompanied by Major Abraham Markle, Captain Bigger, Mr. Harris and Daniel Stringham.

At that time Mr. Richardson left his home in the charge of his wife and their seven children—John Bennett, about 15 and in college; Jane Matilda, between 13 and 14 and attending a young ladies' school in Batavia, N. Y.; also William, George Barkley, Mary, Margaret and Sarah Elizabeth. Another little girl, Martha, arrived a few months after his departure.

There were also seven children in the Markle family, and all those children under one roof must have been a handful for the mothers while the husbands were away.

The men in the prospecting party returned home in September. Mr. Richardson had located his soldiers' claims and pre-empted land to be bought from the government — 22 quarter sections or 3,520 acres.

While in Indiana he spent some time in Vincennes, where he met many distinguished persons, among them Colonel Francis Vigo.



DOROTHY J.
CLARK

After his return home, the rest of the fall and winter was spent in making preparations for moving. Early in March, 1816, Richardson, Markle, Harris and Stringham started for Olean Point on the Alleghany river.

Eight of the Richardson family traveled in a new carriage with a double set of harnesses mounted with solid silver on every part where it was possible to use metal. The two boys went with the wagons that carried household goods. A three days' drive brought the travellers to Olean Point where they had to

wait for the boats to be built.

Mr. Richardson planned to supervise the building of his boat, and go with his family as far as Pittsburgh, Pa. Here he would leave them and go by stagecoach to Washington, D. C., where he expected to remain a week or two having papers signed and settling his land deal with the government. Then he planned to purchase a horse and following the route he had traveled before, meet the emigrants at Vincennes, Ind., on the Wabash river. If the boats reached Vincennes first, they were to wait for him before going on to Fort Harrison, their destination 60 miles farther up the river.

It was decided to build three boats, one for Mr. Har three boats, one for Mr. Har and one to be shared by the Markle and Richardson families.

Four men were hired to navigate each boat who would work at a time, armed with poles tipped with iron spikes, one man on each side of the boat. Standing facing the stern on boards at the bow end of the boat, they set the iron ends of the poles into the river. Placing their shoulders against the poles they pushed and slowly walked to the stern. The cleats in the "running boards" prevented their feet from slipping. Then they walked back to the bow, dragging the poles in the water, and began over again. When these two men tired, the other two took their places.

There was always a man at the rudder to steer. Sometimes one of the boys would steer while all four men took poles and worked hard to avoid running into snags or driftwood.

If the river was free of obstructions, and the water too deep for the poles, all four of the men might rest, and let the boat float with the current, but the poling furnished more speed.

The flatboats were fitted up as comfortably as possible. Fresh meat was plentiful as

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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Community Affairs File

Cont on back

Dorothy Clark

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the country abounded with all kinds of game. Cooking was done in open fireplaces constructed on the decks at the ends of the boat.

It took nearly four weeks to build the boats. Then they were launched, furnished and loaded. The new carriage was dismantled and securely fastened on the roof of the cabin. The carriage horses were sold. It was impossible to transport them on the flat boat.

About the first of April the real journey began. It was long and tedious; they could travel only by day, as it was not safe to run the boats at night and the men could not have endured the constant work. When evening came, the boats were tied up to the bank. The travellers, however, became so impatient that sometimes when the moon came up early and there were no clouds they would run the boats for an hour or two by moonlight.

As the season advanced, the weather grew warmer. The travellers sometimes went ashore before sundown and cooked supper on the river bank.

At Pittsburgh they stopped for a day or two to get some supplies. Mr. Richardson went to a glass factory and bought wine glasses, tumblers and decanters, all of fine cut glass. He also bought some china dishes.

Here Richardson left his family and friends and started for Washington. The boats entered the Ohio river and continued westward. They saw Indians and wild animals on the wooded banks. Major Markle and the boys would leave the boat with dog and go hunting for game.

At Ripley, Ohio, the Richardson, Jane White, teen-visit Mrs. White, an elder married sister of Mrs. Richardson. Jane White, teen aged daughter of Mrs. White, and by the first week of June the travellers had reached the mouth of the Wabash river. Now the boat had to be pushed upstream against the current. There was no floating and little rest for anyone. They did not reach Vincennes until the third week in June.

Next week we'll finish the journey of this family to Fort Harrison

The Richardson Family

Pedde Family

Reaches Fort Harrison

TS MAY 12 1974 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

This week's column will finish the story of a Hoosier immigration—which is also the title of the little book written in 1904 by the grandmother of Miss Juliet Pedde and published in 1939. It tells the story of the Richardson family who left in a flatboat the first of April, 1816, with the Markle, Harris and Stringham families to journey down the river from Olean Point, N. Y., to the mouth of the Wabash river and upstream to Vincennes, reaching this point the third week of June, 1816.

Instead of finding her husband waiting for her there, Mrs. Richardson found a letter which said he was very ill in Washington, D.C. The writer assured her he was getting the best of care, but this did not lighten the burden for his anxious wife.

The traveling party delayed their journey a week until another letter was received reporting no change in his condition. It was useless to delay longer, so at daybreak, June 27, the journey was resumed.

The evening of July 3 found them within a few miles of the fort. Bright and early the next morning, July 4, everyone was up and ready, for there was a friendly rivalry between the boats as to which should reach the fort first.

They were not unexpected; word had been received at the fort that the immigrants were near. Charges of powder were put in the guns and the entire population of the fort was on the lookout for the new settlers.



DOROTHY J.
CLARK

About six o'clock the boats were sighted coming around the bend, the large boat leading with the Major's flag, the Stars and Stripes, floating from the bow. A salute was fired from the fort and was answered by rousing cheers from the immigrants.

The officers of the garrison came down to the river bank to welcome the strangers. When the boats landed, Major Markle invited them all to come aboard his boat, where a table spread with cake and wines and where a social hour was spent in drinking toasts, as was the custom of the day.

Among the gentlemen was a handsome young Kentuckian, Dr. John McCullough, the surgeon at the fort. It was a case of love at first sight when he was introduced to Matilda Richardson. They were married a year later when she was just past 16 years of age.

TS MAY 12 1974
Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

married she went into as good a home as the one she had left.

A brave resourceful woman, blessed with common sense, she was able to accept the situation and make the best of it. Even her children did not guess how great was her anxiety for their father. She set to work to make her house neat and home-like. Unable to find female help in the settlement, she hired an 18-year-old French boy, the son of a trader, to help with the heavy work inside and out. They even planted a small garden although it was late in the season. There was plenty of food, fresh game and a river full of fish.

The hostility of the Indians and the malarial fever soon convinced Mrs. Richardson that she must leave Fort Harrison and try to return to Vincennes.

With only an old Frenchman to help her, she bought one of the smaller boats, loaded all her goods on board, dressed the children in their warmest clothing and carried the sick one to the boat. The Indians watched their departure, but did not molest her. Evidently

they remembered the many kindnesses she had performed for them while living at Fort Harrison.

Over a week later they reached Vincennes safely and Mrs. Richardson made arrangements to spend the winter there. She sold the boat, rented a house and was soon comfortably settled. Soon after arrival, little Mary and Margaret died within two days of each other from malarial fever aggravated by colds and the dampness.

Mr. Richardson did not reach Vincennes until the next March. Circumstances decided him not to go back to Fort Harrison. Part of the land he had bought was in Illinois, on the other side of the river, about thirty miles below the fort. The river was broader here, and it seemed a better location for a town.

Here he built a large two-story hewn-log house. He laid out streets, sold lots, and a town soon sprang up. It became York, Ill., in Clark County. For a time it gave promise of becoming an important place. The location was beautiful and large steamboats used to come to the landing there. For some reason or other, the tide of prosperity turned toward Terre Haute and York became a dead town.

Joseph Richardson died at the age of 75 years. Mrs.

Mrs. Richardson and her children took possession of the only unoccupied house in the settlement at Fort Harrison, a log cabin of two rooms with puncheon floors and a loft. Three other houses were immediately begun, but until they were finished Major Markle pitched his army tent to house his family and the two other families remained on their boats.

To a woman accustomed to all of the comforts of civilization, the change to this wild, rough life must have been very great for Mrs. Richardson. She was born in Philadelphia, June 24, 1776, ten days before the Declaration of Independence. Her father, Dr. John Bennet, was a wealthy physician with a large practice. When she

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Richardson died in 1851. Of their six children who survived them, George enlisted in the Civil War at the age of 57 years and survived, making Terre Haute his home until his death in 1880. Sarah Elizabeth, who married Dr. E. V. Ball, lived until 1890. Dr. Ball died in 1873 at the age of 73 years.

The story of this Hoosier immigration is a most interesting one and tells so much of the life and times of the early days of Fort Harrison.

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The Richardson Family Reaches Fort Harrison

Is MAY 12 1974 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

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Deming Family Was One of Terre Haute's Founders

Ts DEC 15 1974

By DOROTHY J. CLARK Community Affairs File

One of the remarkable group of men with unusual ability and individuality, who came to this little town shut in by vast ranges of unsettled country and barely linked to the east by few and little traveled roads to make Terre Haute the prosperous city it is today, was Demas Deming.

Fifth of seven children of Seth Deming, Demas Deming was born in 1787 in Wethersfield, Conn. His father, Captain Seth Deming (1748-1827), served with distinction in the American Revolutionary War, first as a lieutenant, and later as captain, in the Fifth Regiment of Light Horse Cavalry of Connecticut.

Demas Deming was the sixth in line of descent from John Deming who came from England and settled at Wethersfield in 1636. The emigrant John Deming married, in 1637, Honour Treat, one of the family which emigrated to New England in 1630, and gave to Connecticut its first colonial governor, Robert Treat, a hero of the Pequot War and leader in the resistance to the demands of Gov. Andros for the colony's charter, which was concealed in the famous "Charter Oak."

The Demings were prominent for several generations in colonial history of Connecticut.

When the second war with Great Britain broke out, Demas Deming entered the army and with the rank of Lieutenant was stationed during the War of 1812 at New London. He resigned his commission at the end of the war.

Looking for a career in business, he made a trip to the West Indies, but finally settled at Baltimore, where he went into business with Gen. Ripley, the father of the Confederate general of that name. In Baltimore he formed a close friendship with George Peabody, then a young banker, and afterward celebrated for his philanthropic gifts to the poor of London where he became a very successful banker. In 1856, when traveling in this country, Peabody made a long detour to visit Mr. Deming and remained several days in Terre Haute.



DOROTHY J.
CLARK

Attracted by opportunities offered in the newly opened west, Demas Deming settled in Terre Haute in 1818 and engaged in such trade as was open. At that time the town consisted of a few log cabins. He began to buy land, confident of the growth to come, and here he remained until his death in 1865.

First, Deming bought a stock of goods and opened a store where the Clark House stood later at the northwest corner of First and Ohio. His first land purchase was recorded in 1819. In 1821, Deming was allowed credit for two days work on the public highway in return for his services as judge of elections. He helped build the first court house. In 1822 he represented Terre Haute Masons in the Grand Lodge. In May, 1823, Deming was allowed \$90 for the use of the clerk's office. By 1859, Deming was one of the heaviest taxpayers of

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Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

Terre Haute and Vigo county. Only Chauncey Rose and Jacob D. Early paid higher taxes. Deming paid \$1,463.72 that year.

The associate Judges of the Probate Court were appointed by the Governor and Mr. Deming was an Associate Judge for several terms. He was also one of the Board of Directors of the local branch of the State Bank of Indiana, opened here in 1834 between (now known as Memorial, 2nd St. and 3rd St. on Ohio Hall), and the first president of the Bank, an office he held for over 18 years.

Judge Deming was actually a roundsman in the fire guards of 1840, the year he married Sarah Patterson (1810-1898), daughter of Arthur and Margaret (Chambers) Patterson. Mrs. Deming's father, Arthur Patterson, immigrated from County Tyrone, Ireland, to America, and settled in Pennsylvania at the age of 17 years. About 1814 he located at Vincennes. From there he went to Parke County, Ind., where he became a prominent citizen, being chosen to serve in the state legislature. He died in 1848 at Saratoga Springs.

Mrs. Deming's mother, Margaret Chambers, was born in New Jersey and died in Vigo county in 1868. Sarah's grandfather was Colonel Chambers, a Revolutionary officer of New Jersey.

General Patterson came to Terre Haute in 1846 and was one of the town's early wholesale merchants. He died in 1848. His children were Sarah, who married Judge Deming; Mary, who married David Linton, another pioneer merchant; Margaret, who married John P. Usher, lawyer and Secretary of Interior in Pres. Lincoln's cabinet; and Chambers Patterson, lawyer, three time mayor of Terre Haute and Judge of Vigo Circuit Court.

Because of the muddy roads between Terre Haute and Rockville, the wedding of Demas Deming and Sarah Patterson was delayed until all could get there. The mud was hub-deep and the men had to get out of their buggies and carriages and pry out the wheels. There was not even time to change their spattered boots before the ceremony began. The house where the wedding took place was later called the General Steel homestead.

The newlyweds came to Terre Haute and spent their honeymoon in the old Prairie House. When it closed temporarily in 1841, they went to housekeeping in what was afterward called the Clark House on the corner of First and Ohio, property owned by Mr. Deming. Their first two children were born there.

Their children were: Demas Jr., born 1841; Arthur, born 1843; Henry Seth, born 1848; and Sophie S., born 1850. In 1881 Henry Seth Deming married Josephine Neely, born 1862, daughter of Samuel W. and Sarah J. (Wright) Neely. As a retired capitalist, Henry lived in Santa Cruz, Calif. His daughters were Helen Josphine and Dorothy Sarah. Arthur Deming died unmarried in 1885. Sophie S. Deming married, in 1876, to Davis Wheeler, and lived in Terre Haute.

Demas Deming Sr. was described as being "small in stature, always pleasant, exceedingly active, wise and circumspect, and never ostentatious or supercilious. He was vastly rich, but no one ever would have supposed so from any outward personal demeanor. His superb land, extending almost from the eastern edge of the city to the hills, was his idol. Almost any day during his lifetime he could have been found on his way to or from, or upon these lands. He was emphatically the best poised man of his contemporaries."

The square on which the Deming homestead was built at the northeast corner of Sixth and Poplar streets cost Judge Deming \$100 which he had loaned on it. The borrower could not pay, and one night packed up and quietly left town before daylight. The judge heard of it, and mounting his horse, after a chase, overtook the man. The debtor said he could not possibly pay and the judge

would have to take the land for it.

A part of this same square was later sold to the city school board for \$20,000, and Wiley High School was built there. The best part of the original ground was left and in later years the Methodist church at Seventh and Poplar and the YMCA were built on the original Deming land.

While living at First and Ohio, where sons Demas Jr. and Arthur were born, the new Deming residence was completed, and Mrs. Deming was anxious to move into it, but she could never get the judge to make the move. Finally he had to go on a trip east, and the stage was hardly out of sight before she had secured the necessary drays (moving vans of the time) and hurried everything off to the new house.

Demas Deming (1841-1922), son of Demas Deming (1787-1865), lived in Terre Haute all his life. He attended local school and Waveland Academy. His favorite sports were horse racing and boxing. Until automobiles took the place of driving horses, he bought and raced and sold driving horses as a diversion and made money at it.

In 1871 he married Mary B. Floyd (1844-1893), daughter of (Hagan) Floyd. There were no children. In 1916 he married Mrs. Lillian R. Lohrmann, a widow with a daughter and son-in-law, the Lovell E. Watermans, with three small children. He became very good of his step-grandchildren and was said "to dote" on them.

Demas Deming Jr. entered the banking business with his father in the McKeem & Deming Bank when he was only 16 years of age. At age 27 he became president of the First National Bank in 1868, and was known as the "boy banker."

He became president of the Deming Land Co., vice-president of the Terre Haute Savings Bank, vice president of Citizens Gas & Fuel Co., and earlier president of the Terre Haute Gas Light Co. When Rose Polytechnic Institute was founded in 1874, he was on the first board of managers and was treasurer at the time of his death. Deming Park, Deming Street, Deming School, former Deming Hotel, and Deming Woods bear his name.

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Family Memories Written By Sarah M. Staley

15 MAR 30 1975

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

An account of one family's activities from 1865 to 1922 was written by the maternal grandmother of Mrs. Joseph Minnis and loaned to me because it deals with people and events of the Wabash Valley. Written for her children and grandchildren in her last years, Mrs. Oliver (Sarah L. Maddock) Staley has left a precious legacy for her many descendants.

She began her writing of family memories with events leading up to her marriage. She tells that Oliver Staley was discharged July 7, 1865, in Louisville, Ky., traveled to Washington, D.C. for the "Grand Review" and then to Springfield, Ill., where he was mustered out. A farmer before the war, he came home to take up farming again, and made his home with his parents, Emanuel and Caroline M. Norton Staley.

Oliver Staley began courting Sarah L. Maddock, daughter of Nathan and Patience McDonald Maddock, who lived east of Elbridge, riding his saddle horse over to see her once every two weeks or once a month according to the weather.

They were married Jan. 17, 1867, at her home on a very cold day. Sarah's wedding dress was black silk. The Rev. William Art officiated, and after the ceremony an elaborate dinner was served to the guests and a "Play Party" was enjoyed. Such games as "Weevily Wheat" and "Old Sister Phoebe" were played.

As was the custom, the next day was spent with Oliver's parents and the friends and neighbors held the traditional "charivari" that evening with "plenty of noise and lots of fun."

In the spring the young couple moved into their first home, a rented farm owned by James Tabor, Oliver's uncle, located one miles west

of Brocton. There was no town there in 1867. Oliver had young cattle and there was plenty of range on the prairie at that time.

A year later they rented Will Stuble's farm "in the timber" two miles south of Elbridge. "Aunt Kitty" Staley, Oliver's aunt, came to stay with them, and on Feb. 17, 1868, a baby girl, Laura Patience, was born.

In the fall of 1868, they moved to her parent's home in Elbridge. Others in the household at that time were Maddock's foster children, 14-year-old Maria Fifield, and her 16-year-old brother.

In February, 1871, they moved to an older house where Dr. Yeargin delivered their second daughter, Ada Maude, in May, 1872.

In the spring of 1874, they moved the frame of the old house nearer the road and built on, making it a seven-

room, story and a half. Two years later, Mrs. Staley began taking in boarders, the local school teachers for three dollars a week. On Dec. 2, 1877, a third daughter, Myrtle Caroline was born.

Mrs. Staley did all her own housework, raised chickens and sold turkeys for 50 cents a head, eggs for eight cents a dozen. In her journal she told of her fear crossing Sugar Creek too visit her mother. She was afraid the horse would get scared on the ice and upset the wagon in the creek.

On Sept. 13, 1881, the fourth daughter, Jessie May, was born. By this time, the two oldest girls were in school, and Mrs. Staley still boarded the teachers.

"About the year 1883-84, we had a pair of mules that was gentle for awhile, but they began to get smart," she wrote. "They tried to run but never did a very good job of it. One cold winter morning we drove them to Terre Haute to the big wagon. When we got ready to start home, Oliver thought best to take the end gate out of the wagon and me sit down there and let me feet hang out of the wagon across the grade, for if they would want to run he could not hold them and I could

just step or all out which ever it might be. Well, they did not run . . . we got home alright that time. The next day we traded them to Alec French for a house in Terre Haute with some money to boot . . ."

On May 8, 1888, a fifth daughter, Ethel Lenore, was delivered by "Uncle, Doc" Brown. The next year the oldest daughter married Claude Steele, and two years later the first grandchild, Sabra Louise Steele, was born. Events seemed to happen fast in those busy years. Oliver's father died in 1893, the same year Maude married Charlie Johnson. That same month, Mrs. Staley's father died and 16 months later her mother passed away. Then a few days later Mr. Staley's mother died. So much sadness in such a short time.

In the fall of 1896, they remodeled their home into a

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two story, adding rooms and two porches. In 1901 Myrtle married John Patton, and in 1903 the first boy was born in the family, Winsfred Staley Patton. That year Jessie married Raymond Marley, and their baby girl, Ester, was born in 1906. There was only one daughter left at home.

The Sandford explosion occurred Jan. 19, 1907, and their son-in-law Claude Steele was killed. This was a tragic sadness to the close knitted family, but grandchildren continued to arrive and life went on. In 1910 Ethel married Cary Cooper. At this time the Staleys were 70 and 60 years of age, and during the severe winters were forced to stay a few weeks with their children.

In 1919 they closed their home and moved in with Cary and Ethel Cooper. A few weeks later Oliver died, and was buried in New Providence Cemetery near their old home. In 1922, when the journal stopped, granddaughter Sabra Steele who had married Homer Martin and their baby Ada Luole were living in the old homeplace.

Mrs. Staley kept a record of her family in the journal also. Her father, Nathan Maddock (1815-1894) was born in Preble County, Ohio, and married the hoother, Patience McDonald (1823-1896). Their children were Elizabeth (1834-1865) who married Welch; William Riley (1841-1901); John Quincey (1845-1915); Stephen (1848-1911); and the writer of the journal, Sarah Louise (1850-1940).

A yellowed newspaper clipping obituary related how William Maddock had died at the age of 93 at the home of his son Nathan in Elbridge, Edgar County, Ill. William was born in North Carolina in 1785. His father emigrated to Georgia when William was quite young. After the mother died, the father bound him to Joseph Stubble until the age of 18 years. Stubble was a Quaker and emigrated north with his family and the bound boy to Ohio in 1806, spending the winter in Tennessee and arriving in the spring of 1807. Here William Maddock served out his term of bondage, learned a trade, and became a free man. After marrying his former owner's niece, Hannah Stubble, the young couple moved onto their quarter section of government land purchased at \$2.25 an acre and worked hard until it was paid for. Here Maddock lived 65 years. His first wife died after eight children and 22 years. Two years later he married Sarah Huffman and by her raised seven children.

He spent his last year with

IS MAR 30 1975
his son Nathan who had come from his birthplace in Preble County, Ohio, in 1841 to settle at Elbridge, Ill.

An obituary of Mrs. Caroline Staley, widow of Emanuel Staley, told that she resided near Sandford but was formerly a resident of Elbridge Township. The mother of Aaron, Oliver and Emanuel Staley, she is also buried in New Providence Cemetery.

Family accounts such as this one carefully preserved by Mrs. Minnis are valuable sources of early local history and genealogy. They "put the meat on the bones" of cold statistics, dates on tombstones, and tell something of the day to day life of the early settlers and their trials and tribulations as well as their joys.

Reminiscences of Wood Family by Miss Preston

Community Affairs File

15 MAY 1975

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

One of Terre Haute's most interesting pioneer settlers was Mrs. Charlotte Abbott Wood, a widow with 11 children, who arrived here in the mid-1830s from Baltimore, Maryland.

She was born in 1787 in Salem County, New Jersey, but her family evidently migrated south before 1808, the year she was married in Abingdon, Hartford County, Maryland, to John Wood.

Family records show him to be an English sea captain, but other records only state he was born in London in 1783, served in the War of 1812, was in Fort McHenry during the bombardment, as was his brother-in-law, and fathered at least 11 children before his death at the age of 47 years in 1830 in Baltimore.

Their children included William Maxwell Wood, born 1812, died young; John Abbott Wood, born 1814; Sarah Wood, born 1817; a daughter whose name is not known, born 1818; Charlotte Wood, born 1822; Mathilda Wood, born 1824; Martha Wood, born 1825; Frances Wood, born 1827; and Margaret Wood, born 1829.

According to Margaret Preston, a granddaughter of Charlotte Abbott Wood, she was "born and reared in luxury . . . she was an omnivorous reader. After her morning bath, she began the day by reading a chapter from the Bible, but she was



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also fond of light literature and much enjoyed the stories from the New York Ledger. She was a constant attendant at the First Congregational Church, absolutely unselfish, never putting herself first. She was beautiful to look at in her old age, always wearing black with a white kerchief and a beautiful white cap. No matter how busy she was, and she was always busy, she never failed to renew her toilette in the afternoon. She loved the outdoors, and always had a beautiful flower garden."

Miss Preston continued, "Just why she was induced to leave her comfortable home and friends in Baltimore, I have never fully understood, but I believe a brother of hers had traveled in this western country and was so favorably

impressed with it that he thought her young family might have better opportunities."

"Her second son, Charles, came before her; the eldest, Maxwell, was at sea; the youngest, John, remained in Baltimore to finish his medical education; so she had only her five young daughters to accompany her, the eldest about sixteen and the youngest about five. Sarah was left for another year at school."

"Think of the courage it must have taken to leave her children so far away, knowing that she couldn't possibly go to them in case of need, and her home with all the modern comforts and even luxuries of those times.

"The journey from Baltimore to Cincinnati was made by Stage coach. I don't know how long they were on the way, but I know that it took a much longer time than it does now to cross the Atlantic. From Cincinnati they came by water. Her first home in Terre Haute was on North Third Street just back of the Blinn property in the middle of a cornfield . . . her household goods were a year in reaching her."

"There seems to have been a manufacturer of very excellent chairs here at that time . . . called "Hoosier" chairs, with which she supplied herself. I have some of them in my possession now (1927)."

According to Miss Preston, "In the spring of the next year my grandmother moved into what was known as the Linton House, a large brick and very fine house for those times . . . The gentlemen who were engaged in building the National Road had lived in a very unsatisfactory manner up to this time, there being no comfortable boarding houses; they persuaded my grandmother to take them into her family."

"As far as actual living was concerned, the early pioneers lived like lords of high degree. They raised their own garden produce, game was plentiful, prairie chickens, quails, and even deer. Within my memory at the place where I now live (Preston House, 1312

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and Poplar), quail were frequent visitors at our back door. In very cold weather we often had enough to last a week three times a day. Now (1927), I scarcely know what a quail looks like."

"Groceries were high, of course, as they were brought from so great a distance, but families bought large supplies at one time, sugar by the barrel, green coffee by the bag, tea also in large quantities. Wild fruits were plentiful, plums, grapes, crab apples and strawberries."

Miss Preston told of the fine cooking and baking done by her grandmother, the chicken broiled in real butter, the heaping platters of cakes, doughnuts, crullers, short cake, ginger cake, honey cake, apple pies, pumpkin pies, peach pies, ham slices, smoked beef, broiled shad, preserves, batter puddings that filled a large meat platter and quaked like jelly. No wonder the young engineers found Mrs. Wood's home a very comfortable place to live.

The story of the Woods family in Terre Haute will continue next week.

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Community Affairs File More About the Family of Charlotte Abbott Wood

18 MAY 11 1978

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Last week's column told of the arrival in Terre Haute from Baltimore, Md., of the widow Charlotte Abbott Wood and five of her 11 children in the year 1835. The next year they moved into the large brick house known as the Linton house where she took in boarders, young gentlemen employed as engineers laying out the National Road.

According to Miss Margaret Preston, granddaughter of Mrs. Wood, who wrote an account of her life in 1927, the eldest daughter, Sarah, married one of the young men, William D. Wood, "a very highly educated Scotchman in no way related to my grandmother . . . Sarah lived only a year after her marriage, dying of typhoid fever which is always so prevalent in an unsettled country. She was just 21 years old. Mr. Wood afterwards married Miss Ann Reeman, the aunt of William Wood Parsons."

In telling of the style of dress at that time, Miss Preston told how the Wood family anticipated for months the arrival of a box of new clothes, not only dress goods but hosiery, silk hosiery of the finest quality. "The hose were never less than six dollars a pair, but they were worn only on state occasions. I've often heard my mother (daughter Charlotte, born 1822) say that they wouldn't have gone to a party without nice silk stockings."

"There were parties innumerable, most of them enjoyable, some rather stupid. I imagine, but all interesting types of the new country. . . . I can see my mother's eyes twinkle as she told about a lemonade party. They ran no risk of drinking too much for there was only one glass which was passed along



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the line accompanied by the pitcher of lemonade. This was before germs were discovered so there were no fatalities . . . "

"Then there was horse racing accompanied by a mild kind of gambling in which the ladies were always winners. The men, when ordering their own supplies from the east, must have laid in boxes of ladies' gloves, for gloves were always the prizes."

"Some of the young ladies of my mother's time were Miss Ann Elizabeth Hager, who became Mrs. Flors; Mrs. Demas Deming's mother; Miss Miranda Donaldson, who became Mrs. Turner; Mrs.

Chauncey Warren, Rockville, Montezuma, York and Marshall, Ill., were the young people's places of week-end or week-long gatherings."

"As there were no public means of transportation, and as the roads were at times almost impassable, the safest and best mode of travel between these places was on horseback. There were creeks to ford, and sometimes they were so high the horses had to swim."

"One of the most hospitable homes in this section of the

country was that of the Patterson family of Rockville, where visitors seemed to be always welcome though there was no means of notifying their hosts of their intended arrival. The guests were usually not fewer than six young ladies and gentlemen;

their horses also must be cared for during the week long visits . . . The Patterson family had a large farm and a large house. The young ladies of the family, their guests and the "hired" girl

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occupied the same room: the gentlemen and the farm hands another. My mother never tired of talking about those visits."

"Sleighting was a fine pastime: there were no elegant sleighs, but there was plenty of good timber from which to make runners and the body, and bells of various kinds and sizes . . . the horses were so spirited . . . there was an occasional runaway, but the men were fine horsemen, so there were never any casualties. On one occasion, the driver was obliged to stand in order to hold the horses more firmly, and one of the young ladies became so frightened she also stood and caught hold of the young man's coat tails with such a grip that she pulled them off."

Miss Preston told how her parents began housekeeping in the building now known as Memorial Hall, but known

then as the Branch Bank of Indiana. Their quarters were over and back of the bank. Her mother, Charlotte Wood married Nathaniel Preston, schoolteacher and later cashier of the bank. Three of visit. She accepted, and it was their children were born there, before the family bought and moved into the Preston House.

The courthouse square was then the aristocratic part of town. Mr. and Mrs. David Danaldson lived at the southwest corner of 3rd and Ohio in a large brick house. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Early lived on the northeast corner of 2nd and Wabash, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Groverman lived on the north side opposite the courthouse.

Mr. Groverman had written his brother's wife a very alluring account of Terre Haute, telling her that they lived in a beautiful house, and inviting her to pay them a visit. She accepted, and it was afterwards told that when she alighted at the door her first words were: "What an outrageous liar that Charles Groverman is!"

Obituary Tells Life of Charlotte Abbott Wood

8 MAY 18 1975 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The subject of the columns for the past two weeks have concerned the early life of Mrs. Charlotte Abbott Wood, and her family who came to Terre Haute in 1835. This week ends the series with her obituary written in the flowery style of the newspapers of a century ago.

"Mrs. Charlotte Abbott Wood in Terre Haute, Aug. 3, 1875, aged 88 years and 3 months. Venerable in the fullness of years and womanly honor, she has gone down to the dark valley of the shadow of death, having finished the work of a long and useful life. The trials of the morning and the noon of life were bravely met, and the shade of the evening brought the stillness and quiet of death to a tired and weary soul anxiously awaiting the end.

She was a pioneer settler of Terre Haute, 40 years ago. But already the young city was honored and respected at home and abroad by such citizens as Chauncey Rose, Judge Deming, the Mesrs. Linton, Colonel Thomas H. Blake, Dr. Blake, Curtis Gilbert, Joseph Jenckes, William Ray, King, McGregor, Chauncey Warren, Levi Warren, William Warren, Patterson, James Ross, Barbour, Crufft, the Earlys, Major Ogden, Judge Huntington, Donaldson, Farrington, Hitchcock, and many other equally worthy, who made it an attractive point for those seeking a home in a new country.

It was a community of intelligent, refined, cultivated ladies and gentlemen, rarely equalled, never excelled. To this place in 1835 came Mrs. Wood with three sons and six daughters. A native of New Jersey, she married in 1808 John Wood, a native of London, England, and settled in Baltimore. Her husband was a Captain in the War of 1812, and for his military service, a pension was granted his widow. She came to this new home with a large and helpless family, and with a shattered fortune, having most honorably given up the last of her means for the payment of securities due to illegal requirements.



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But a generous and kind people received her in the spirit of love, which was amply repaid by a life of usefulness and unselfish devotion to them and her family. The honorable position held her family in the best elements of their careful and prudent education.

The eldest son, William Maxwell Wood, now (1875) of the United States Navy, has ranked at every period of his life as one of the most distinguished medical officers of the Navy and to whom this branch of the service is largely indebted for radical and important professional improvements. He long presided at the head of one of the naval medical bureaus in Washington, D.C.

The fourth daughter, Martha, married Samuel R. Hamill, of Sullivan County, Ind., long and favorably known as an attorney and having attained many official honors.

Charles Wood, deceased, the second son, was long and favorably known in this community in business circles and

as an officer of the Vandalia Railroad.

Dr. John Abbot Wood has for 30 years enjoyed high professional honors.

The eldest daughter, Sarah, married Engineer William D. Wood and died young.

The second daughter, Charlotte (named for her mother) married Nathaniel Preston, long cashier of the Branch Bank of Indiana.

The third daughter, Mathilda, married Pierre Metz Don-

nelly, long one of the prominent city druggists.

The fifth daughter, Frances, married Dr. John Cunningham, for 25 years a prominent and successful druggist of this city.

The sixth and youngest, Margaret, married Moses Warner Williams, for many years a widely known and successful merchant of this city and at present Vice President

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of the Gas Company. From these marriages came 31 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren to the deceased.

But few mothers anywhere can exhibit such a roll of family worthies, the jewels of this Roman matron.

Within a few months she has been called to mourn the loss of her daughter, Mrs. Williams and her son-in-law, Samuel R. Hamill, and Dr. John Cunningham. The success of her life in preparing for usefulness to society so many children may be ascribed to her exalted and useful Christian faith, guiding, directing and sustaining her. Always at the bedside of the sick and afflicted, she mercifully gave consolation and personal aid. Always willing to help night and day, she was for more than a third of a century an angel of consolation in the chamber of sickness and death of her friends and neighbors. She peacefully died when the fullness of years and honors prepared to share the blessings of a religious faith which gave strength and hope

in the weary trials of life and the path to death."

The obituary was written by Dr. Ezra Read, early physician of Terre Haute.

Historically Speaking

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Ts JUL 18 1976

A family history can be gleaned from a collection of papers found in an estate settlement received bills with their fancy letterheads from local firms, tax receipts, contracts, etc.

Tilghman J and Alavesta (Jacoby) Hoffman, both natives of LeHigh County, Pa., came to Terre Haute and opened a retail grocery business in 1863. They lived in the old Cincinnati House which stood on the site of the old National Hotel on North Fourth street, where the Schultz Store parking lot is now. Their son, George William Jacoby Hoffman was born there in 1864.

T J Hoffman had been a member of the I O O F Lodge in Geneva, Ontario County, N.Y., since 1854, and transferred his membership here.

Upon arrival in Terre Haute, Hoffman purchased real estate from William Coats. In December, 1865, he bought 1,148 feet of lumber from Eshman, Tuell and McKeen Lumber Yard, on Lafayette Avenue, north of the Wabash & Erie Canal.

He had a partner in 1871, as the firm was known as Maehler & Hoffman. They sold groceries, provisions and liquor at 221 Main St.



In 1872, Hoffman had his own business as a retail liquor dealer and as a dealer in manufactured tobacco on the north side of Main between 6th and 7th streets. Received bills from Ryce's Carpet Hall show purchases of house furnishings, goods, decorative hangings, etc., totaling \$164 during five months of 1873. This amount included a \$30 bar mirror and 28 yards of Ingrain carpet. His six-month water bill totaled \$5.85 for sprinkling and domestic use. City taxes for 1874 were \$29.

The Terre Haute City Directory lists T.J Hoffman for the first time in 1872. His residence was on the south side of Chestnut between 6th and 7th streets.

The next few years remain a mystery, as he was not listed after 1875, and Mrs A. C M Hoffman was living at 113 N 5th St. in 1877, at 620 1/2 Main, in 1878-9. In 1881, she was listed as the widow of Tilghman and living at 19 S. 14th St., until 1883, the last time her name appeared.

A contract dated June, 1879, shows T. J. Hoffman was

employed by John H O'Boyle for \$125 a month. Coal bills show he bought coal at 50 cents a bushel from Kimmell & Son, 2nd and Chestnut, and from John C Northall, 1st and Chestnut.

In July, 1873, he was buying supplies from Bowser & Johnston, local wholesale grocers, and in April, 1873, from Hulman & Cox. As "Hoffman's Saloon" he bought coal in December, 1875, and a \$200 slate pedestal American pool table from J M Brunswick & Balke Co. of Cincinnati.

One source says Hoffman moved to Sioux City, Iowa, and conducted business there until his death in 1885.

The son, George William Jacoby Hoffman, attended city schools and Terre Haute Commercial College. At the age of 15, he began clerking in the drugstore of Gulick & Berry, corner of 4th and Wabash.

After four years, he entered Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and graduated with the Class of 1886. He returned to Terre Haute and served his apprenticeship with the old drug firm known then as Gulick & Co., became a junior partner in 1890, and sole proprietor in 1897. The store was renamed Hoffman Drug Store and was the oldest establishment in this line in the city. The building was erected in 1851.

On Sept. 1, 1900, he opened his second drug store on the corner of 6th and Wabash, known as New Central Pharmacy.

Mr Hoffman had married in 1888 Miss Mattie M. Miller, eldest daughter of Peter Miller, one of Terre Haute's oldest and best known business men and German-American citizens. Miller was a Vigo County Commissioner and influential in community affairs.

The Hoffmans had two children, Hester, born in 1895, and Herman M., born 1900. Mrs Hoffman's sister, Elizabeth Miller, married Frank Milton Buckingham in 1900.

As early as 1860, Peter Miller was apprenticed to Rufus St. John in the saddlery and harness business at 8 S. 2nd St. By 1872, Miller had his own saddlery business in the old Post Office building on South Fourth street.

In 1875, he took a partner, Charles Arleth, and as Miller

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& Arleth, they became manufacturers of and wholesale and retail dealers in collars, saddles, harness, bridles, whips, blankets, brushes and curry combs." His home was at 215 N. 5th St.

In 1880, the partnership was terminated, and he was listed as a "harness and collar manufacturer" at 17 S. 4th. Two years later, his business was moved to 505 Main St., and was not in the city directories after 1883.

After the estate of the late Miss Hester Hoffman was settled, the Northampton, Mass. Historical Society forwarded her personal and family papers on to the local historical society. It was the history of her grandparents, T. J. and Alavesta (Jacoby) Hoffman, and Peter Miller that evolved from the mass of papers. Her mother, Mattie (Miller) Hoffman, was a graduate of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College.

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Historically Speaking

Community Affairs

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



Historians have long agreed that in order to write accurate, interesting, and well-balanced history, it is necessary to examine and use all the significant manuscript material, old and new, available.

What do historians mean by manuscripts? They mean letters—letters written by a grandfather or great-grandfather during the Civil War, letters written by a pioneer to his family in North Carolina, letters written by a college student to his family; business letters, political letters, and love letters.

They mean any kind of letter that throws light, even a little, on life in times past. They mean diaries, soldiers' diaries kept during the many wars of this country, school boy diaries, any kind of diary.

They mean recollections and reminiscences set down in leisure time after the events described had happened. They mean copies (handwritten or typed) of sermons and speeches. They mean business records, account books, day books and journals, even contracts, indentures, and bills of sale.

The late Florence Hull Riehle, long-time resident of Terre Haute, wrote her family history and personal recollections when she was 98 years of age in 1958.

Her great-grandparents, Isaac and Sarah Woollen, migrated from Greensboro, North Carolina, to Indiana to settle on land near his sister and her husband in what is now Vigo County.

John and Sarah (Woollen) Robertson had twelve children and where they found room for the Woollen family stirs the imagination. The family group swelled to 24. Every log cabin was built with a loft above, approached by a ladder. Quilts and comforts were spread on the floor, and the children slept there. In the big room below were double beds and trundle beds for big and small fry. Four or six to a bed was a common thing.

Visits were many between the Woollen home and Robertson home, and soon romance began to blossom. Tall, handsome Sam Robertson, John's son by a previous marriage, and pretty, blonde Mary Woollen were married.

John Robertson and his wife

moved on to another farm, giving their home to the young couple. Each son was given the farm on which he was living, and the father would go on to another of his many farms. Land was cheap and plentiful.

After he had done that for the various sons, his generosity began to wane as did his health. The last move was to a tract of land located at what is now 25th and College, in Terre Haute. At that time it was low and wet, and, after several bouts with typhoid fever, John and his wife moved to Independence, Missouri, where he outfitted wagons for the Oregon Trail. He furnished wagons, horses, harness, and many of the necessities of road life. From there he went to St. Joseph, Missouri, where he died.

The tall, sturdy Scotsman with the real Scotch brogue ended his days far from his native land, but the Robertson name of his many descendants is pretty well scattered over the country. Genealogists have a real problem finding out who fits where with this family tree.

Sam and Mary (Woollen) Robertson had two sons and one daughter. One son, Isaac, was a law student at old Asbury College, now DePauw University, and later owned slaves in Missouri. This caused a bitter struggle in the family when the other son, Garretson, became a physician and served as a surgeon in the Union Army.

The daughter, Mary Elizabeth, married an Ohio man, Joshua Hull. They were the parents of Mrs. Riehle, born in 1860.

The maternal grandparents persuaded the Hulls to come live in Vigo County, and they established a pottery directly across the road from the Robertson home. He built a large, two-story building with a lean-to where the clay was deposited. A horse tied to a pole went round and round on the clay until it was of the proper consistency for the potter's wheel. A nephew from Ohio was the potter.

Bit by bit, the clay was placed on the wheel and molded into jars, crocks, pitchers, and many other things of all sizes and shapes. People came from miles around to buy these household articles.

The second floor was used

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over

for drying the articles before they were put into the kiln to be fired. A walk led from the second floor to the kiln, a forbidden walk for the little girl, but a temptation she could not resist.

Examples of pottery made at the Hull Pottery in Vigo County are on display at the Historical Museum. There is a distinctive color to the clay, and the salt glaze and dull appearance will identify it for collectors. There are probably many examples of this historic pottery still to be found in the surrounding countryside.

Mrs. Riehle's grandparents, Samuel and Mary Robertson, helped found the Mt Pleasant Methodist Church on the old Lockport Road, now the Riley Road, and many of her memories concern the revivals and church activities.

Historically Speaking

TS APR 24 1977

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



The Seven Jesses were a noted family in Crawford County, Ill. There were seven brothers—and they lived two miles south of Palestine.

Their name was Myers, and the Christian name of the eldest was Jesse. Because of a very strong family resemblance, they all received the nickname of Jesse.

They had many peculiar and eccentric traits, one of which was that they always went in single file. It was no uncommon thing to see the seven men leave home together, riding invariably one behind the other, with all the precision and regularity of a band of Indians.

They were coarse, rude, ungainly and wild as the game they hunted. They were illiterate; not ignorant, but shrewd, active, alert and they possessed strong, practical common sense.

Jesse went to Terre Haute just after the first railroad was completed. When he returned home he was asked by some of his neighbors if he saw the railroad and he replied, "Yas, by hokey, and it beats anything I ever seed. A lot of keridges come along faster'n a hoss could gallop, and run right inter a house, and I thought they would knock hell out of it, but two men run out and turned a little iron wheel round this way (imitating a brakeman) and the demed thing stopped stock still. They did by! I'm goin' to take Mam and Lyd to see 'em shore." The latter were his mother and sister.

At another time Jesse went to Vincennes and stopped at Clark's Hotel. Next morning when he came downstairs, Mr. Clark said, "Good morning, sir."

Jesse replied, "What the hell do you say good morning for, when I have been here all night?"

Clark then asked him if he would like some water to wash and received in response, "No, by! We Myerses never washes."

Clark saw he had a character and drew him out in conversation, enjoying his eccentricities very much. He enjoyed repeating these stories for years afterward to friends and hotel guests.

A book as full of humor as Mark Twain's "Innocents Abroad" could be written of the sayings and doings of the Seven Jesses without exaggerating any of their mannerisms.

They all lived to be old bachelors before they ventured into matrimony. Jesse was the

first to make a break, as the bellwether always leads the flock, and he was over 30 when he married. How well he liked the venture is indicated by the fact that the other six Jesses went and did likewise.

"Blood mills," pieces of old tin punched full of holes and fastened to a board like a modern grater were used by the pioneers to work dried corn up fine enough to make coarse "dodgers" or mush. The bruises and cuts caused by the crude device gave the grater its name.

Horse mills where farmers could get their corn ground closer to home were usually not available until 1817 in most communities. One family was said to have lived on lye hominy for six weeks when they were unable to get to the mill. Since the early mills ground so slowly, it was sometimes necessary to camp out three or four days waiting your turn for grinding.

Corn was the first crop planted by the pioneer, and what the squirrels and blackbirds left, matured and yielded a fair return for the labor. Deer

were shot in self defense. Fences were no obstacles and farmers were bothered by them as late as 1845. They would go through a field, bite off the end of the growing ears, and, startled by some noise, would trample and break down more than they ate.

Farmers guarded their fields at night against the deer. One night a farmer was on guard when he heard a tramping through the corn. Firing in the direction, he shot and killed a neighbor who was out on the same business.

Bee-hunters were found in every pioneer settlement. On one occasion, a tree was located with an unusual amount of honey in it. The hunter filled the pails he carried, but there was still much more. Hating to leave any, he took off his buckskin breeches, tied the ends of the legs securely, and went home bare-legged carrying his pails and breeches full of honey.

A favorite delicacy of the pioneers, it also supplied a powerful intoxicant when properly prepared.

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Sunday (Vigo Co.)
By Dorothy Clark



The Hamilton Family— Some More History

TS MAY 15 1977 Community Affairs File

Last week's column related the life story of John Hamilton (1754-1822), the Revolutionary War veteran who lies buried in Woodlawn Cemetery—the role he played as an officer in the Virginia Continental Line and as an Indian trader and his arrival in Vigo county with his family.

John and his wife, Mary, had at least six children. They were James, William, John Jr., Mary, Rawley (a daughter) and Sarah.

John Hamilton Jr. (1783-1836) was born near Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pa. He married Anne Wilson in Butler County, Ohio, on Sept. 18, 1806.

He entered the armed services in the War of 1812, becoming a captain in February, 1813, when the Third Regiment of Ohio Militia under Col. James Miller marched to join the Northwestern Army commanded by Major-General William Henry Harrison at Fort Meigs. While there, Capt. Hamilton was ordered by Gen. Harrison on several hazardous expeditions to the lake, all of which he fulfilled satisfactorily.

On May 4, 1813, Gen. Harrison ordered Capt. Hamilton to take such persons as he might select and deliver verbal orders to Gen. Green Clay, then approaching Ft. Meigs. Hamilton chose Capt. Shaw and Ensign Harper, secured several cannon spikes and received last orders from Gen. Harrison.

They left the fort at 1 a.m., making their way through Indian lines and delivered the orders. He then marched with Col. Dudley's troops down the west side of the Maumee toward the British Batteries.

Hamilton spiked a British cannon, struck and tore down one of the stands of British colors at this battery and fled to the woods with Dudley's regiment. He was taken prisoner in this engagement which resulted in Dudley's defeat.

Hamilton received a shot through the left knee during the battle which left him permanently disabled. He was nicknamed "Capt. Black Jack" Hamilton as a result of his war record. He was placed on the pension rolls on March 4, 1814, and continued to receive his pension until his death.

On Feb. 5, 1815, Dr. Jacob Lewis certified that Capt. John Hamilton was permanently dis-

abled due to a bullet having passed through his left knee. Dr. Lewis was at St. Mary's when John Hamilton was there recovering from his wound.

The next day, Dr. Sam Milliken of Hamilton, Ohio, examined Capt. Hamilton and found him lame as a result of his battle wound.

In 1816, he moved to Terre Haute with his father, and either he or his father was one of the first three county commissioners when Vigo County was organized.

In 1828, two doctors in Cincinnati certified that he was permanently disabled as the bullet injured the nerves and weakened the knee. The certification was signed by Isaac G. Burnet, mayor of Cincinnati, and W.H. Harrison verified the signature as recorder of Hamilton County, Ohio. He was to become President of the United States.

Hamilton's petition to Congress that year told in detail of his battle wound, service record and the fact that he had received a ten dollar a month pension (a rate due an ensign) instead of the \$13.33 per month due a captain. He begged the Congress to pay him the \$529 he felt was due him, and stated that "his lame leg was now worse than it had ever been before."

In December, 1840, the Treasury Department paid John's children his pension arrears after his death on Dec. 1, 1836.

Sometime prior to May 2, 1835, Hamilton moved to Texas with his sons, James, William and Alexander. According to records in the General Land Office in Austin, he served in the Texas army from July 3,

1836, to Oct. 3, 1836, and, as a result, his heirs received a "league and a labor of land" in Robertson colony, Brazoria County, Texas.

His son, John III, went to Texas in late 1836-37. His daughter, Mary, and her family arrived in Texas after that date.

John Hamilton died at Matagorda, Brazoria County. Court records show that the land was divided among his five children. The earliest tax rolls of Bastrop County, Texas, in 1838, list all four sons.

His son, James, (1808 or 1809-1890 or 1900) never married. He served in the Tumlinson Rangers, 1838-8, and moved to Llano County, Texas after 1850 with his brother, Alexander.

John Hamilton III (1809 or 1810-1860) married in Vigo County in 1830 to Lavinia Scott (1812-1895). They migrated to Texas in 1836 or 1837 with three children, and lived on a farm near Webberville, Travis County, Texas.

William (1811-1861) married Louisa Hill in 1838 and moved to near Webberville by 1840. They had seven children, one of them the great-grandmother of Banks McLaurin Jr., the great-great-great-great-grandson of John Hamilton Sr., who is interested in tracing the family tree.

Mary Hamilton (1814-1863) married John W. Mullen (1818-1894).

Alexander (1819 or 1820 to 1890 or 1900), the only child born in Indiana (as all his brothers and sisters were born in Ohio), never married. He survived being struck by lightning after moving to Llano County, Texas.

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Tribute from the 19th Century

Historical Civil War (Civil War) & Clark, Dorothy

Among the family papers from the estate of the late Edwin Clark Read was a series of twelve letters written by the most prominent naval officers in relation to the character and standing of Jonathan Young, U.S. Navy. Read's uncle was Dr. Stephen Young, an early Terre Haute doctor, which clues the reader in on why these Civil War letters were in the family.

Mr. Read cherished the papers and books of Dr. Ezra Read, early local physician, who handed them down to his nephew, Dr. Stephen J. Young, who in turn handed them down to his nephew, E. C. Read. His widow presented all the items to the Historical Society as he had requested.

The first letter was written by Admiral Porter who wrote, "He (Jonathan Young) commanded one of the monitors of my fleet during the latter part of the war and performed his duties to my satisfaction. I consider him mentally and morally qualified for promotion. His reputation as an officer and a gentleman is excellent. I have full confidence in his ability to perform important separate service in command of a vessel of war."

In his letter, Captain John Chauncey stated, "I have known Lt. Commander Young since 1861. He served under my command on board the U.S. Steamer Susquehanna as 2nd Lieut. and commanded the first Division of guns in the naval engagements which resulted in the capture of Forts Hatteras and Clark. He conducted himself in a very gallant manner and from the efficiency with which his Battery was served contributed materially to the success of the occasion... I would as commander of a squadron entrust him with important separate service in command of a vessel of war."

Admiral Lardner stated that he had known Lieut. Commander Young since 1861. "He served with me on board the Steamer Susquehanna as 2nd Lieut. and as Executive Officer. A few days previous to the Battle of Port Royal he was, to my regret, detached and ordered north by the Department where he volunteered to remain by the ships and take part in the action. He commanded the First Division of guns and behaved in a gallant manner."

Admiral Dahlgren told how Lt. Commander Young "commanded the Monitor Langamor, one of the vessels of my fleet off Charleston, S.C. during the year 1864. His vessel lay right at the entrance of Charleston Harbor directly under my eye, a most difficult and hazardous duty requiring the greatest vigilance and coolness on the part of the Commander, continually exposed to the enterprise of a bitter enemy and liable to be caught by heavy weather under the Rebel Batteries. No duty in the War has been so severe or so little appreciated by common opinion... My opportunities of forming a correct estimate of his ability to command a ship and of his general professional fitness are as good and perhaps better than is usual with Commander in Chief..."

The fifth letter was written by Commodore Hitchcock. "I have known Lt. Commander Young for a number of years. He commanded the Gunboat Pembina, one of the vessels of my Division off Mobile in 1863 in a very efficient and satisfactory

manner..."

Capt. Joseph Green had known Young since 1862 when he commanded a Monitor off Charleston during the Rebellion.

Commander Homer C. Blake had known Young fifteen years. "We sailed together in the Sloop of War St. Mary's in 1851 and 1852. He performed the duty of Master in a very efficient manner subsequently commanding the Monitor Sangamon which was attached for a short time to the Iron Clad Division on the James River under my command..."

Admiral Gordon stated in his letter that Young had served with him eight months in 1862 as Executive Officer

of the Steam Frigate Powhatan while he was Senior Officer off Charleston, S.C... He left me to take command of the Gunboat Pembina in the Gulf Squadron..."

Admiral Bailey had known Young for several years. "He has served in Command of my Flag Ship, "The Vandalia", from May, 1865 until January, 1867 in an efficient and satisfactory manner..."

The tenth letter was written by Captain Charles Green who expressed his admiration for Young during the time he was under his command on board the Sloop of War Jamestown during the winter of 1861-62... ex-

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Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark



ecutive officer of a sailing ship on the blockade off Wilmington..."

Captain Corbin had known Young over sixteen years. "We sailed together in the Sloop of War St. Mary's from 1852 in the Pacific and East Indies. He performed all his duties as Passed Midshipman Master and Watch Officer...He subsequently served with me in operations against hostile Indians in Puget Sound and was associated with me on shore in preparations for meeting expected attacks... and finally he served in the South Atlantic Squadron with me dur-

ing the late Rebellion..."

The twelfth and last letter was written by Commander Swanson who stated that Young had served with him on board the U.S. Steamer Massachusetts in the Pacific from 1855-57. "In a fight I had with a party of Northern Russian Indians in Puget Sound, Mr. Young had charge of the landing forces and displayed upon that occasion a great deal of ability, coolness and courage. I consider him a very meritorious officer and highly deserving advancement in his profession."

Enough to excite curiosity

Faded old photograph and handmade scrapbook

A faded old photograph and a handmade scrapbook neatly bound in handsewn cloth, decorated with the maker's name in ornate floral letters: Clara Blocksom, was enough to excite curiosity and the desire to learn more about the family.

The photograph, taken in 1902, shows three women seated on a long, carved wooden settee on a porch, with a man standing behind them. The man was identified as Edward B. Blocksom, and two women as Clara, his wife, and Hazel Carr. The third woman is probably one of Clara's three sisters, Nancy Canady, Thirsa Hull or Sarah Cornell.

The women are wearing high-necked dresses, and their hair is pulled tightly back and secured with ribbons on top. Hazel is holding a lovely china-head doll. Moustached Edward is wearing a broad-brimmed felt hat.

On the first page of the scrapbook is pasted a handwritten copy of the resolutions passed by the Board of Vigo County Commissioners following the death of David Boyll, one of their members, in March, 1850. So, what relationship was David Boyll to Clara?

The next four pages were filled with clipped newspaper obituaries Mrs. Elizabeth Sandford Lloyd, Mrs. Elizabeth Blocksom, Joshua Hull, Mrs. Anna Carson, Miss Isabell Stevenson, Mrs. William (Bettie) Ring, Samuel W. Rigney, Mrs. Eleanor Larkins, John W. Canady, Mrs. Sarah Ann Weeks, N. G. Buff, Fred F. Cornell, Miss Bessie Jewel Allen, Miss Lizzie McKee Smith, Mrs.

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By Dorothy Clark



Emily Hull and Mrs. Caroline C. Stevenson.

Also, Mrs. Caroline Nelson, Dr. Jacob W. Ogle, Mrs. Louisa J. Fisbeck, Miss Belle Stevenson, Infant Hull, Elijah W. Pound, Newton A. Hull, Hazel Ruth Burnett, Miss Ollie Kester, Mrs. Lilie Olivia Hunt, D. W. Davis, Mrs. Arbell Boyll, Mrs. Mary S. Rigney, Mrs. Sarah F. Cornell, Mrs. Sylvia Campbell, James and Clark Harrison, Samuel Harrison, Mrs. Mercy Snoddy, Carl St.Clair, H. W. Hull, and a very lengthy one of prominent John A. Hull.

The rest of the scrapbook was filled with clippings of poems, religious writings, sermons, amusing anecdotes, philosophy, and "Aunt Matilda Talks", an early "Dear Abby".

Learning the background of Clara Ruth Hull, born 1861, daughter of Wesley H. and Emily E. (Boyll) Hull, explained her interest in religion. Her grandparents were the Rev. Samuel Hull, a Scotsman from Virginia, and his wife, Mary (Carter) Hull, of English descent from Tennessee.

In 1817, Rev. Hull was a Methodist minister in charge of the Evansville and Terre Haute circuit as presiding elder. They settled on a farm in

Honey Creek township in 1828. Land records show he bought four quarter sections of land from Henry Allen in Sections 20, 21 and 28, Township 11, Range 9. Later the next year he sold off part of this acreage.

Rev. Hull continued to fill in as needed as a preacher until his death in 1857. He had twelve children, nine of whom lived to maturity. The eldest was Wesley H. Hull, born 1825, in Sullivan county, who married Emily E. Boyll in 1845. She was the daughter of David and Ruth (Carr) Boyll, of English descent, who came to Vigo county about 1830.

Wesley and Emily had nine children (six still living in 1895). They were Sarah Frances, wife of Fred Cornell; Nancy C., wife of J. W. Canady; Thirsa Bell; James H.; Newton A., and Clara Ruth, wife of Edward Blocksom.

Wesley died in 1889, the owner of a 500-acre farm. His widow, Emily, died nine years later, aged 72 years. Her obituary stated that she was born in Kentucky in 1826, and moved to Indiana with her parents when she was very young. At her death in 1898, she left four daughters, two sons and eleven grandchildren.

A clipping in the scrapbook told of

the wedding of Clara Ruth Hull and Edward B. Blocksom at the home of her mother, seven miles south of Terre Haute, by the Rev. Hollasapple on Dec. 1, 1889.

She was beautifully attired in cream Henrietta, cut high with long sleeves, trimmed in moire silk and ribbons. She carried a bouquet of chrysanthemums. Only relatives and the immediate family were seated at an elegant supper. There were many beautiful and useful presents.

Edward died in 1930, and his widow in 1935, aged 73 years, a longtime member of the Bethel Methodist Episcopal church in Youngstown. She was survived by one brother, James E. Hull, several nieces, nephews and cousins.

The next to the youngest son of Rev. Hull was A. J. Hull, a farmer and stock-grower of Honey Creek township near Youngstown. He was born in 1840, married in 1860 to Martha St.Clair, the daughter of Nelson St. Clair. They had four children, May E. who married A. D. Owens, Debora F., wife of G.W.Jones, and Delores. He was steward, trustee and class leader, and superintendent of the Sabbath School. In politics he was a Prohibitionist. This was Clara's uncle.

Clara's brother, Newton A. Hull, was born in Honey Creek township in 1857. After attending the Terre Haute Commercial College, he taught for seven terms of school before becoming a farmer and stock-grower. In 1880, he married Samantha Hess, daughter of Washington Hess of German extraction. They had Cora, May,

(Rev)

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Elizabeth, Ethel, Georgia and Ollie.

To explain why some of the obituaries were included in the scrapbook, I found this family connection. John Carr married Naomi Smith, daughter of Reuben Smith, and had eight children. Their daughter Ruth Carr married David Boyll.

Two of the Boyll children were Mary E. Boyll (1848-1882) who married Nathan Lewis Kester, and Caroline Boyll (1843-1883) who married Elijah Washington Pound (1842-1898).

One of the interesting obits was for Vigo county pioneer, Mrs. Arbell Boyll who died at the age of 94 years in her Honey Creek township home. She was survived by eleven children, forty grandchildren and 68 great-grandchildren.

Born in Spencer county, Kentucky, in 1808, Arbell McGrew was the third of a family of twelve born to Scotch-Irish parents who had emigrated to America at an early date. All her brothers and sisters lived to be grown and married. Her 84-year-old brother, Robert, still lived in Kentucky at the time of her death.

At the age of fourteen, she joined the Missionary Baptist church, married James Boyll, and came to Vigo county in October, 1834. They settled on a piece of land before it became Honey Creek township, and for 68 years she had lived within a mile of the place they first settled. He died in 1880, and they are both buried in Hull Cemetery.

Readers can see how much local history can be learned from even a faded photo and an old scrapbook.

Genealogy interest continues Foltz and Pence 'roots' reviewed

TS JAN 7 1979

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark



Interest in family genealogy continues to flourish, as more and more people search out family letters, diaries, day journals and the family Bible to gain knowledge of their ancestors.

Family letters dating back to the 1850s were located by Donald E. Foltz, Spangler Road, Vermillion County, Ind., which helped him understand some of his Foltz family background.

The original spelling of the name evolved from Fols, Fuls, Fulce, Fultz and Foltz. His line runs back through five generations from his father, Paul Foltz, grandfather, Gideon Luther Foltz, great-grandfather, Gideon Foltz, great-great-grandfather, Phillip Foltz, to the earliest proven ancestor so far, John Fuls.

Don's great-grandmother, Cynthia Strole who married Gideon Foltz, was the daughter of John and Drusilla (Graves) Strole, and the granddaughter of Christian Strole. This family came from Virginia to settle in Fayette Township, Vigo County, Ind.

Don's paternal grandmother was Scioto Ike, who married Gideon Luther Foltz. She was the daughter of Paul and Nancy Ann (Eviston) Ike, and the granddaughter of Paul and Lavina Ike and Thomas and Olivia (Sexton) Eviston. These people were located in Vermillion County, and the original log cabin of the Ike family is located on farm land presently owned by Mr. Foltz.

Charming old daguerreotypes in a double case show John Strole with white hair and full beard looking solemnly at the camera. A heavy, gold watch chain is draped across his vest.

With folded hands, his wife, Drusilla, stares at the camera, dressed in her best black dress with white collar, and a little black lace cap tied under her chin.

Telephone calls and letters will fill me in on more details. Remember when I wrote about Dr. Allen Pence? The next morning a call from his granddaughter, Juanita Pence Inglert, of Terre Haute, told how Dr. Pence's mother was an early midwife here. When he was only a few month's old, she received a call one night to assist a woman in labor.

Having no one with whom to leave her baby, she gathered him up along with the tools of her trade and mounted her saddle horse. On the way, the horse shied and bucked, throwing mother and baby to the ground. Before the days of ambulances and hospital emergency rooms and x-rays, Mrs. Pence caught the horse, gentled it, picked up the crying baby and her belongings and rode on.

The baby continued to cry and seemed to be in pain, but without expert diagnosis, it was not learned the infant had suffered a fractured hip in the fall until he attempted to walk. Realizing the child would be handicapped and unable to perform manual labor, the family "chipped in" to educate and make a doctor out of the boy.

Mrs. Inglert told of the loss of a much-wanted baby in childbirth of Dr. and Mrs. Pence, and how saddened and depressed German-born Louisa was. One night, Mrs. Pence awakened her husband when she heard a baby crying. He urged her to try and sleep, that it was her imagination. She insisted they investigate the sound, and following the cry, they found a newborn infant wrapped in dirty rags and lying in a grape basket between the front door and the storm door. The little girl had not even been bathed after birth.

Overjoyed with her find, Mrs. Pence now had the baby she had longed for so long. Dr. Pence took over and cared for the infant properly. The next day, they went to the courthouse, proudly carrying their foundling, and legally adopted her.

Named Perdita Pence, she grew to adulthood, a lovely young woman, and a joy to her foster parents.

Mrs. Inglert told how Dr. Pence became blind in his last years, but enjoyed visits from family and friends. Her father, Albert Pence, the son of Conaway Pence, surveyor, who was Allen Pence's brother, took her to see Dr. Pence when she was in her early teens, and she remembers him vividly.

He loved to tell funny stories and make people laugh, and she remembered the tiny, old man as he sat talking with them that day so long ago.

Someone once said that no one is really dead as long as there is someone to think about them and remember them to others — this is one example of Dr. Pence's bid for immortality.

In his letters to his family, John was always pleading with his children to have daguerreotypes taken of themselves, their wives and husbands and children, and send them to him. He obviously wanted to know what his growing family looked like.

Over 125 years ago, parents and grandparents needed pictures of their loved ones even more than they do now. From Virginia to Indiana was a long way to travel, mails were slow, and telephones hadn't been invented yet.

A series of letters from 1853 to 1860 were written by John Strole to his son, J. H. Strole, who had left the home place in Union Mills, Page County, Virginia, to settle in Hoosierland. The letters contained the usual weather reports, condition of family health, fires and other catastrophes in the area, along with reports of crops, sale of horses, and marryings and buryings.

The 1853 letter commented on the coming election, the light wheat crop, the "tolerable prospect for clover," and the fact that not enough letters were being written home.

In 1854, Mr. Strole reported that Gideon Foltz was running for the office of constable. But the big news was that Union Mills had a name change to Alma, Virginia, and that they would now get mail two or three times a week.

By 1860, Gideon Foltz had held a public sale of his farm, but reserved possession of the house and "this side of the ditch until the first of September. What he intends doing I can't tell."

Dr. Pence Sequel

Frequently when I choose to write about a person, place or event in local history, I realize I don't have all the information available. But it's the best way I know to learn more.

John Hoffman among early Vigo and Clay County settlers

FEB 18 1968

For more (nd.) + Dorothy Clark

By Dorothy Clark

until his death in 1854.

He erected the second grist mill in that county. His son, John Croy, owner of a grist and saw mill combined, the first run by water and the latter by steam, in Jackson Township, was born in 1827 in Putnam County, the second child of Valentine and Elizabeth.

From Fredericksburg, Iowa, came a letter asking for information about Richard Riley Shull, born 1829 in Vigo County; married in 1858, and buried in Iowa.

His father was either Louis or Henry Shull, born 1778 in Tennessee; died 1881 in Hamilton County, Nebraska. His mother was Nancy Ellen Johnson, born 1802 in North Carolina; died 1893 in Nebraska.

Anyone having information on this family is urged to contact this writer.

A third letter from Grimes, Iowa, was seeking information about an ancestor, John Wesley Golliday, supposed to have married Dicy Cline in 1842 in the Wabash Valley area.

There is no record of anyone of the name Golliday or any of the other possible spellings having been married in Vigo County until after 1900 when there was a Golladay with no apparent connection.

Whether it's Hoffmans, Croys, Shulls or Gollidays, anyone with information on these local families is invited to contact this writer. Genealogy is a fascinating hobby for more and more people, and the secret of enjoyment is participation and sharing of knowledge. The pursuit of genealogy has revived the older hobby of pen pals.

Additional information on genealogy is in the Living Section of the Tribune-Star under that title.

Three letters from Iowa show continuing interest in genealogy and local history. Correspondence from Runnels, Iowa, brought an inquiry concerning the ancestors of George Hoffman and his wife, Rosetta Clark, their brothers and sisters, and George's second marriage.

Most of the Hoffmans in this area are descended from John and Barbara (Harpster or Harpston) Hoffman, who emigrated from Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, with their nine children to settle first near Circleville, Ohio, when it was a tiny hamlet of only three houses.

From there they moved to the mouth of the Little Miami, where they lived for one year; then to Vigo County, Indiana, near the Forks of Eel River, and from there to where Cloverland is now in Clay County. John Hoffman (1781-1875) and his wife Barbara (1785-1866) are buried in the Harpold Cemetery in Clay County, along with several of their descendants.

These hardy pioneers built a cabin of hewn logs, clapboard roof, puncheon floor and stick chimney in the "howling wilderness" where the howls of the wolf and the screams of the panther were familiar sounds.

Fifty years later the cabin had been replaced with a fine farmhouse, corn and wheat fields flourished where herds of grazing deer used to be, and the Indians had moved farther west.

John Hoffman was alleged to have sat on the lap of George Washington at the tender age of seven years. His first pair of boots were a gift from the "Father of Our Country."

John had emigrated from Pennsylvania to Ohio in 1812, and was a soldier in the War of 1812 under

General Hull, serving as a butcher. He was a witness to the inglorious surrender of Hull's army. He was the eldest of 22 children, 19 boys and 3 girls.

With his family and a team of oxen, he came to Nevins Township, Vigo County, about 1818, and settled on Section 29, Range 7, where he took up 80 acres. He claimed to have driven the first cut nails ever manufactured in the New World.

By 1883, the only living offspring of the original pioneer couple was Jacob Hoffman (1804-1883). He had married Mary Croy, the daughter of Benjamin and Christena (Horn) Croy, in 1825. They produced twelve children: Jefferson, Mathias, George, John H., Francis M., Jacob, Valentine, Mary J., Katharina, Barbara A., Hannah and Elizabeth. At the time of the deaths of Jacob and Mary and their burial in Harpold Cemetery, there were 90 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Originally a Whig, Jacob Hoffman cast his first presidential vote for Harrison. He later became a Republican, and was a member of the Christian Union Church for over 48 years.

The Croy family descended from Valentine and Elizabeth (Cole) Croy, who came to Vigo County about 1818 in a keel-boat from Muskingum County, Ohio, down the Ohio river to the mouth of the Wabash river, and poled the boat up to where Terre Haute now stands.

Valentine Croy, his father, and several relatives made up the group which remained here only a brief time before moving on to Putnam County. In 1836, Valentine moved to Owen county, where he remained

By Dorothy Clark

Read family papers provide background on early history

MAR 5 1978

Clark, Dorothy

Community Affairs File



Following the death of Edwin Clark Read, grandson of early Terre Hautean Dr. Ezra Read, his widow gave some of the family papers to the Vigo County Historical Society.

Dr. Read was invited by Dr. Ebenezer Daniels to settle in Terre Haute in 1843 as a practicing physician and surgeon. He resided near Seventh and Ohio streets. His books were inherited by his nephew, Dr. Stephen J. Young, who in turn handed them on to the late Edwin C. Read, who was instructed to send them to the society.

Dr. Ezra Read was Terre Haute's postmaster at one time, and the large silver pocket watch he received at retirement was also presented to the society.

He died in Terre Haute at the age of 66 in 1877. Born near Marietta, Ohio, in 1811 and reared as a farm boy, he attended Ohio University at Athens for three years where his older brother was a professor. During his junior year he received an appointment as midshipman in the navy and served on several vessels stationed at Norfolk.

Dr. Read died of overwork and exhaustion after a long illness. The flags of the city were displayed at half-mast. No man of Terre Haute was more deeply or universally mourned. The employees of shops, foundries and rolling mills resolved to attend the funeral in a body, and from the poor quarters of the city came men, women and children to pay respects to their friend and common benefactor.

Among the Read family papers was the interesting account beginning early in 1802 when Dr. Read's father, also Ezra Read, then a young man full of ambition and dreams of a successful life, mounted his horse at the door of his mother's home in Massachusetts.

Taking with him all his earthly possessions, he told his brothers and sisters and friends "good bye" and headed west to the Ohio Colony at Marietta in the Ohio Territory.

His personal effects included a horse, surveyor's compass and chain, \$1,000 in gold and letters of introduction to some of the prominent men in the colony.

Born in 1781 in Northbridge, Worcester County, Mass., Ezra Read was the son of Daniel Read, an officer in the Revolutionary War. His mother was the daughter of Capt. John Brown who fought in the French Colonial War. Her three brothers fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Ezra's brothers were Abner Read, later of Old Town, Ohio; Amasa Read, who came to southern Illinois; and Daniel Read, of northern Ohio. There were also four sisters.

On the trip west, Ezra's gold was stolen from his saddlebags one night while he slept in a wayside tavern, but this was not the only misfortune he would encounter.

One evening he realized he had lost his way and after wandering in the dense forest for some time dismounted, removed the saddle from his horse and placed it at the foot

of a huge tree.

He prepared to spend the night resting on his saddle and holding his horse by the bridle.

Soon the woods seemed to be full of howling wolves closing in on him. He could climb the tree and save himself, but would not leave his horse to be killed by the hungry beasts. Taking flints from his pocket and striking them he soon had a fire blazing in the dry brush. He kept the wolves at bay until morning by throwing chunks of blazing wood at them. As soon as it was daylight, he mounted his horse and started on his journey again.

During the spring of 1802, Read reached Marietta, Ohio. Without opportunities for surveying, he worked on a farm. He acquired his first land by a lucky chance. He overheard a neighbor say he would take the first offer he received for a certain piece of land he owned. Read quickly offered his old pocket watch worth four dollars, and the man accepted it for 80 acres of rich bottom land covered with heavy timber.

During the following months, Read worked nights girdling the trees so they could be piled and burned and the ground prepared for a crop of corn in the spring of 1803.

On July 4, 1804, Read married Nancy Clark, daughter of Capt. Silas Clark of Chelsea, Mass., who was visiting her uncle in Marietta. The young couple went to housekeeping in the log cabin he had built on his new land. A bushel of salt in those days cost \$6.

A son was born in 1805 and was named Daniel for his grandfather. A cradle was constructed from timber growing on the banks of the Muskingum river near where it empties into the Ohio river. Considered a good piece of workmanship for those days, the cradle has been passed down through the generations of the Read family and is still in use today after 173 years.

Motors, boats and airplanes

CAF

How the Johnson brothers got their start in Terre Haute of the early 1900s

Community Affairs

TS MAR 18 1979

The Soren Johnson family lived only a mile from where the Wabash river threaded its placid way through the bustling west-central Indiana town of Terre Haute in the year 1903.

The small two-story frame house at 717 N. 10th St., was much like a dozen others along the tree-lined thoroughfare. Nor did the old barn behind the Johnson home mark it with any particular distinction.

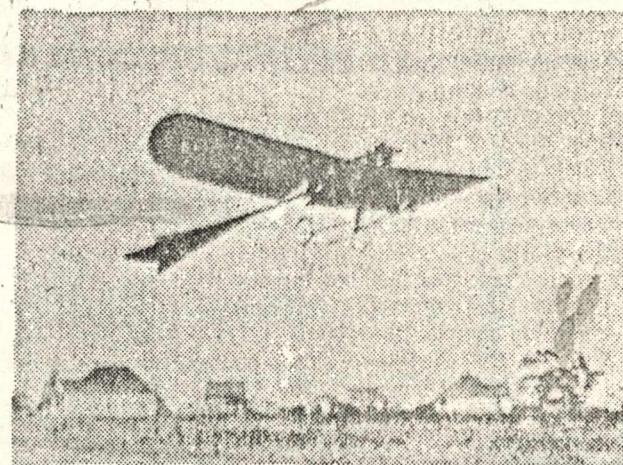
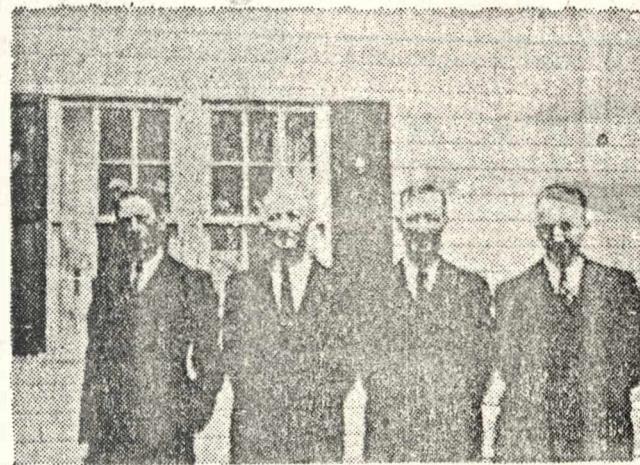
Most of the homes in Terre Haute in those early years of the 20th century had adjacent barns or sheds. A few were used to stable horses and some to protect harness, buggies and other possessions from the elements.

In the barn behind the Johnson home were tools in profusion. They were the tools of Soren Johnson, who at one time had operated a blacksmith shop in Effingham, Ill., and in this year of 1903 was a skilled tool dresser working for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Oldest of the Johnson boys, Lou received his early education in Effingham, being graduated from the Effingham elementary school. He was an avid reader of any material he could get his hands on that dealt with mechanics and tools.

Lou Johnson was almost 16 when Soren Johnson moved his family from Effingham to Terre Haute, Ind., where the Pennsylvania Railroad had transferred its shops. He was a tall, thin, red-haired lad.

His brothers, Harry, 13, Julius, 11, and Clarence, only three, also were red-heads. They were excited to learn that the Wabash river was near their



The Johnson brothers and one of their creations

In a snapshot taken by Wayne Conover in 1943, the brothers are, from left to right, Lou, Harry, Julius and Clarence. In the adjacent photo is pictured the first successful monoplane flight in America — on Aug. 8, 1911 — flown by Lou Johnson, according to a recent issue of *The Antique Outboarder*, published by

home, and they immediately investigated the barn behind the Johnson house.

Both the river and the barn played a part in disclosing the legacy given them by their father. It was a way with tools and an intense, constant curiosity to find out what could be made with them.

The fascinating Wabash river was nearby, but the Johnson brothers had no boat. So, they built one, Julius recalled, in the loft of the old barn. Julius remembered, "Lou was

always the leader, with Harry and me trying to help, and at the same time shooing Clarence out from under foot."

Their first boat was a heavy, 16-foot craft, Julius recalled, with a pointed bow and a narrow stern. It was named "Arrow", and when it first was put in the water, Julius said there were only three motor boats on that section of the river. He remembered one as the "Helen" having been made by Racine, and another, the "Bunangi" by the Truscott Company.

the Antique Outboard Motor Club Inc. It is noted that the airship shown was built by the Johnsons with an aluminum frame and wooden wings, powered by a lightweight four-cylinder, two-cycle, v-type, 60-horsepower engine.

"The oft-told story of the walnut tree grove is true," recalled Warren Conover, whose marriage to Lutie Johnson in 1910 had grown out of years of companionship with her brothers.

"Lou wasn't lazy," recalled Conover. "He just didn't like the hard physical work of rowing that boat, with very heavy oars, when they made the trip to the walnut grove. It put the thought of a marine engine into Lou's and Harry's heads, without a doubt."

By Dorothy Clark

Speaking

Historically



(b/w)

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Lou was 21 years old when his fertile mind conceived the plans for an engine to eliminate that drudgery of rowing. He was helped by Harry, then 19, and Julius, 16, who (according to Conover) already was an expert machinist and did most of the tooling on all of the early engines built by the Johnson boys. Clarence was eight years old, and a constant "errand boy" for his older brothers.

Working from his own drawings, both he and Harry whittled the patterns from white pine blocks. Lou engineered the building of a single cylinder engine with a four-inch bore and four-inch stroke. It was, Julius said, an inboard engine that generated about three horsepower and did about 400 revolutions.

"I remember Lou getting a copy of a boating magazine from the public library, with a picture of a cross section of an engine," recalled Julius, "and he'd study that for hours on end. He was a hard working boy."

The second engine, which Conover said "weighed all of 200 pounds", was

named "Yellow Jacket" from a brass water-jacket which Clarence Johnson said had been "shrunk on the outside." It had a reversing lever and created a mild sensation when put into the boat named "Arrow."

In his apartment at Palm Beach Shores, Fla., the state which he chose as his home when he retired from Johnson Motors in 1960, Clarence rummaged through scores of old photographs.

One, with a notation on the back that it had been taken by Julius, showed one of their first boats being taken out of the loft of the barn for launching on the Wabash.

There were pictures of Lou, Harry and Julius in the shop holding old castings and tools, and Clarence's collection contained photos of boating runs on the river. In later years, he had a friend photograph him standing alongside one of their first motor bicycles. Experimental bicycle motors were made in Terre Haute in 1918.

"I can remember being on the river a half dozen times when I couldn't have been much older than eight or nine," Clarence said. "I remember the first time they put the boat in the water very vividly, because I couldn't swim, and I was a little afraid then of the water. The boat was so heavy that it took in some water before we shifted weight, and when Lou first started the engine, the boat rammed into a clump of willows and went aground. But Lou got it straightened out quickly."

The Johnson's next door neighbor, Fred Hauer, who was born in the house at 713 N. 10th St., recalled

many a boating and fishing trip with the Johnson brothers.

"I can remember helping them tie up several of their boats at the foot of the old Vandalia railroad bridge. They had names like "Arrow," and "Arc" and "Demon." The old barn where the initial engine was made had a forge at one end where Soren Johnson made many of his own tools and showed his sons how to use them."

"I have a pipe wrench he made on his own forge," Hauer said, "and I remember him making a fine drill press out of a brake wheel off a box car."

"Tenth Street was a busy, noisy street in those early years, for the Chicago and Eastern Illinois ran regular trains right down the middle of the street, and the depot was only three squares south of the Johnson home. The Pennsylvania yards, where I worked for a time with Soren Johnson, were only two squares away."

The noise that the Johnson brothers made in their engine experiments went unnoticed by the neighbors, Hauer said. "I recall the day they put their airplane engine on some blocks in the alley back of the house. When Lou got it started it swept all the tin cans and dirt out of the alley for a half-block — and the neighbors all laughed when someone said it was the first time the alley ever had been that clean."

Next Sunday's column will continue the story of the Johnson family and their inventions and experiments here in Terre Haute —

The brothers' creativity develops

Ts 3-18-79

The Johnson Family saga

— Part II

Last week's column began the saga of the Soren Johnson family in 1903 when they arrived in Terre Haute from Effingham, Ill.

Hattie Marie Johnson was the Soren Johnson's first child; born in 1876, she was a young married woman when she died in Effingham in 1898.

Arthur Fillmore Johnson, second child and first son, was born in 1879 and died in his Chicago home when accidentally scalded to death in 1913.

The second Johnson daughter, Lutie Mae, born 1891, married Warren Conover in 1910, and died three months after she and her husband had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Bertha Johnson, widowed by Soren's death in 1932, lived for the last eight years of her life with the Conovers. Soren Johnson, 89 when he died, is buried in Terre Haute. He was born in 1843 at Aalborg, Denmark, the son of Christian Johnson, a Danish sea captain.

The Johnson family lived at 717 N. 10th St., and next to the old barn where the early engines were built, was an open spot used to grow garden vegetables. Here Soren Johnson built a two-story frame building in which the Johnsons built the monoplane Lou was destined to fly successfully in 1911. Both the old barn and the other building long since have disappeared.

According to their brother-in-law, Warren Conover, Julius Johnson received very little credit for the work done by Lou, Harry and Clarence Johnson, but in those early years Julius was a most important figure in their success, and their father seemed to make special efforts to teach Julius how to handle tools and become a machinist.

Interviewed in 1971 in Bradenton, Fla., Julius told how he had married a girl who shared little enthusiasm for the inventive ambitions of his brothers. As a result, Julius eventually went to work for a company later known as Owens-Illinois Company, Alton, Ill., retiring in 1953 to Florida after 34 years with that company. Julius was an expert shuffleboard player and competed in tournaments throughout the state when he was in his 70s.

Warren Conover, born in Terre Haute in 1890, first met the Johnson family in 1902. Warren's brother, Pearl Conover, a Terre Haute detective for 30 years, was known as "Bill" by his high school classmate, Lou Conover. Their homes were just three blocks apart.

While watching the brothers work in their shop in the barn, Warren remembers being asked by Mrs. Johnson to stay to dinner where he met Lutie Mae, whom he would marry eight years later.

According to Conover, "Lou was tall and thin and red-haired. He was a shy boy, but thoroughly likable. He also was something of a gambler, and was good at anything if there was some kind of wager, or stake on the side. He'd outdance everyone at a party and he'd seem to challenge anyone to tell him he couldn't do something if he felt that he could. He really believed in himself."

Lou was a sound thinker and always the leader of the Johnson boys in their engine-making projects. He'd put down quickly on paper and on the drafting board the ideas that Harry would come up with. Conover recalled that Lou would be furious with Harry when he had an idea and "didn't put it down

Conover remembers young Clarence as the "developer," a young man who, in his teens, showed talent for conducting successful experiments. It was Clarence, Conover believes, who had the original idea for the little opposed engine that was to loom large in the Johnson story.

Conover recalled that the "opposed" engine (both cylinders firing against each other) turned some 2,300 revolutions, an unheard of "high" in those days. The one that Clarence developed had a two-inch bore and a one-and-a-half-inch stroke and was the engine that made the motor wheel successful.

It was Conover's recollection that all the engines made by the Johnson Company were "opposed" engines until the plant was moved from South Bend to Waukegan in 1927.

In that early Johnson experimental period of 1903, piston rings constantly were a tough problem for the determined brothers. A man named Ollie Miller had a small shop in Terre Haute and showed them how to make piston rings. He helped them on the piston ring work for the original engine, but they had many a trial before they mastered the piston ring problem, and an ordinary can of varnish played a part in the actual start of that first engine.

"I remember one morning we cranked and pulled and cranked some more on the big flywheel we used to start the thing," said Julius.

We just couldn't get any compression. We'd take it down and file the places where the homemade rings would touch the cylinder sides. We even used rags soaked in oil. We cranked, it seemed, for weeks. Then this one morning, in disgust after cranking until his arm was exhausted, Lou reached up to a shelf and grabbed a can of Spar varnish.

"He poured the whole can into the engine and it started right up. We all gave a whoop, I can tell you. We had a lot of setbacks, but we never gave up."

That simple statement "We never gave up" typifies the dogged determination that helped them build the engine they put in the boat so they could reach the walnut grove without rowing.

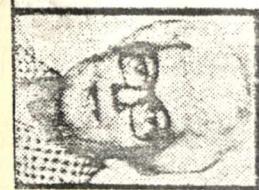
That accomplishment in the year 1903 actually was the start of the Johnson Motors Company. But the word "Motors" didn't, at that time, include any thought of an outboard engine. The brothers built several other inboard engines for persons living along this section of the Wabash. Conover remembers the second engine, the "Yellow Jacket," which generated up to 12 horsepower. A third, built in 1905, weighed only about 65 pounds. It was a single cylinder engine with a three-inch bore and three-inch stroke, turning 800 rpm and very successful.

Clarence told that several of those engines were made, and one made in 1905 was still in operation on a boat used on a lake near Syracuse, Ind., as late as 1965. Several of this type went to Arkansas both single and double cylinder.

Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Historically



Community Affairs File

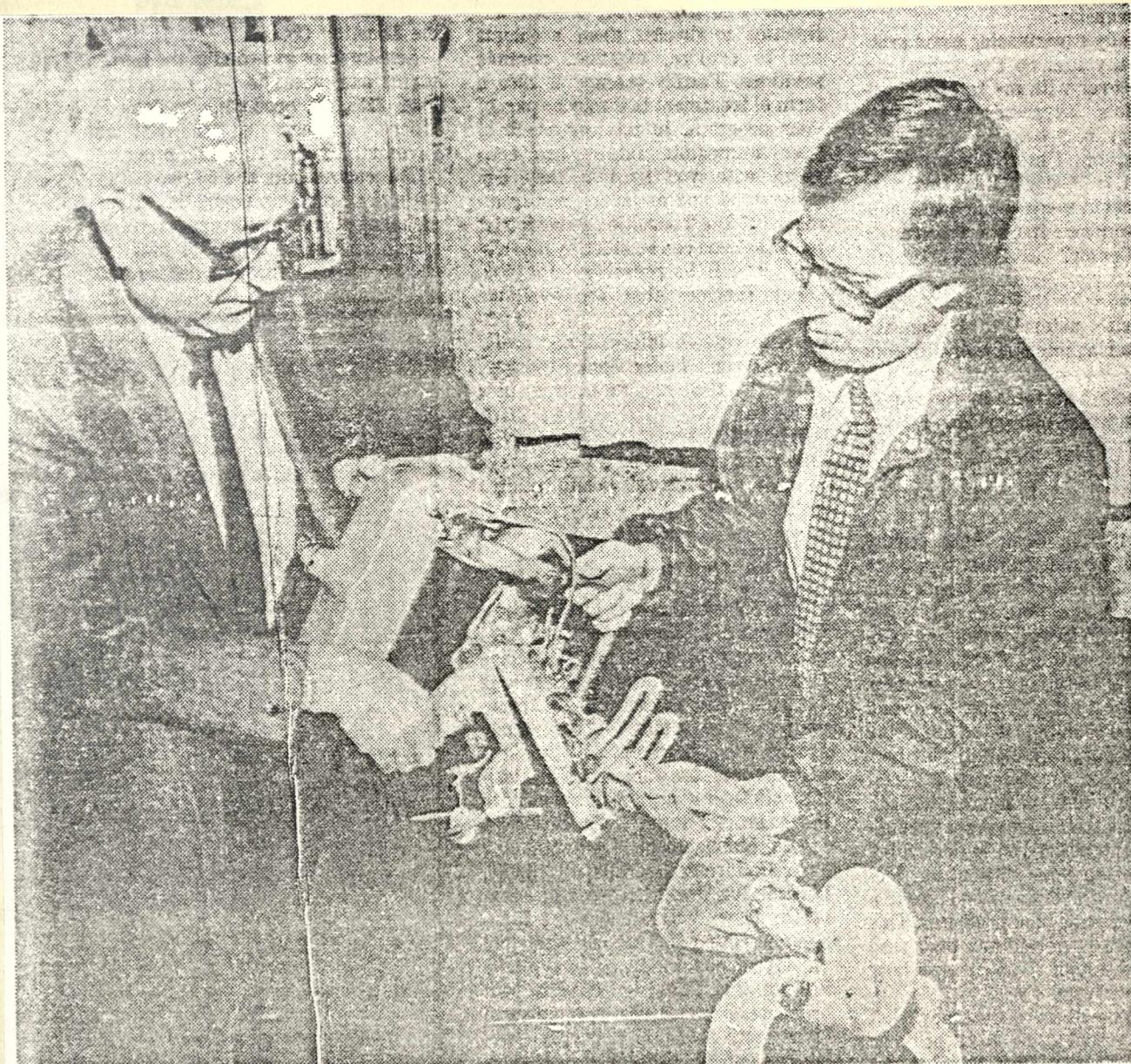
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Julius remembered that "we didn't have any production line as we know it today." He said the brothers would all concentrate on finishing one motor, sell it, then start on another. Some of their best customers were the boating enthusiasts known as the Terre Haute Motor Boat Club and later as the Wabash Valley Boat Club. Lou Johnson was the first president. They would meet at the foot of Park Street at Dresser Drive and hold cruises and picnics.

Harry began thinking about lighter weight engines at this time, and thought constantly of ways to reduce engine weight. He'd go out into a field near home and sit on a fence for hours, watching the buzzards soar and swoop, then he'd come home and talk about how easily they sailed through the air. The next thing we knew he was building an airplane and engine to fly it.

Next Sunday's column will tell of the first Johnson Brothers airplane and the day it flew in Terre Haute.



Inspecting a Johnson brothers motor

Robert I. Clark and his son, Dennis A., life members of the Vigo County Historical Society, check over a

Johnson brothers boat motor.

House of Photography

'Motor wheels' and outboards

Johnson Family saga — Part IV

Bros

TS APR 8 1979

Community Affairs File

By Dorothy Clark

Speaking

Historically

A great deal of interest has been shown in the original material never before published about the Johnson brothers and their inventions, the subject of the last three Sunday columns. Today's column will complete the series, and this writer expresses appreciation to Warren Conover, Culver, Ind., for furnishing the account.

Conover and his wife, the former Lutie Mae Johnson, lived at this time with their daughter, Helen, and son, Clay, on a farm near Burnett, Ind., where both children were born.

In later years, Helen was to become a very successful industrial designer. Clay, at twelve the first person ever to "plane" a boat using an outboard motor as power, was in his teens when he piloted his own boat across a stormy Lake Michigan, landed in pitch darkness on a beach in front of the new Waukegan plant, slept in an office overnight, and eventually became vice president and division manager of the Johnson Motors division of outboard marine.

"Lou Johnson brought one of the new motor wheels (motorized bicycle) out to my farm," said Conover, "and it worked fine with the new flywheel magneto. One noon in December, 1917, I got a call from Lou asking how the engine was working. When I told him it was working very well, he said: 'Warren, this may mean a lot to us if you can ride your motor bike in to Terre Haute and meet me. I'll be waiting for you in a taxi cab in front of the Terre Haute House.'"

It was about five degrees below zero, Conover said, and the roads

were heavy with snow, but his bike negotiated the eight miles into Terre Haute without trouble.

Waiting in the cab were Lou Johnson, the cab driver, and a man named H.E. Marshall. Conover told how he rode his motor bike, followed by the cab, all over town, including a run up and down Strawberry Hill where owners of new cars tested their automobiles. When the cab and bike were back at the hotel, Marshall shook hands with Conover and said:

"If that machine will do what it did today over those roads, it's good enough for me!"

H.E. Marshall became the first president of Johnson Motor Wheel Company with officers in the old Rookery Building, Chicago, until some time in 1919, when it moved to South Bend. Manufacturing of the Johnson engine for attachment to the rear wheels of bicycles was begun in the Quick Action Magneto Company plant, with Warren Ripple as president and Marshall as his assistant.

Three months later, the Johnson brothers invited Conover to join them and move to South Bend. Harry Johnson and Conover took off for South Bend in April, 1918, on the old Vandalia Railroad.

The Johnson Brothers Engineering Corporation was formed as a closed corporation with Conover joining Lou, Harry and Clarence as owners. This action was taken so that all their patents were assigned to the corporation. It was this corporation which later was to work out a royalty contract on outboard engines produced by Johnson Motors Co.

Conover chuckled as he recalled

that "the first pay I received for the Johnson Motor Wheel Co. was half in cash and half in stock."

After its move from Terre Haute to South Bend in 1918, the J.M.W. Co. prospered. Some 17,000 of the motor bikes were sold. A firm in Chicago, Edwards & Christ, were the largest distributors of the vehicles, with others in Los Angeles and Philadelphia.

Then the Johnsons were hit by another "big wind," that of economic change. With the advent of the popular Model T Ford and the rumor that Ford was coming out with a car costing only \$365, the bottom fell out of the motor wheel business. And, with the nation's general economy suffering a strong recession, it wasn't long before the J.M.W. Co. folded.

"In those days, 1920 and 1921, you tried to get on any payroll you could," Conover recalled. "So, I spent four months in Chicago, helping Edwards & Christ take over our company's business."

But business setbacks couldn't wipe from the minds of the Johnson brothers their dream of building a practical, light weight outboard engine.

Conover laughed as he recalled an incident in 1920 when he told Lou he had a canoe at home and was going to put an engine in it. Lou suggested putting an engine on the outside of an old boat, and Conover scoffed with good humor at the idea of putting an outboard engine on the end of a boat.

A short time later, Lou interrupted a family dinner by clearing off the dining table and spreading out an assembly drawing he had done with Harry (Clarence was in Washington

on a government war job at the time). It was from that drawing that the first Johnson outboard motor was designed.

Four experimental motors were made, and from the four, Conover took parts and assembled one engine which he gave to his son. The four motors were made by hand and were kept running in tests so much that they were practically worn out.

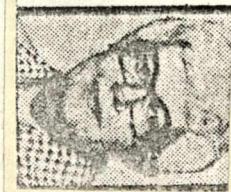
The only thing not original equipment on this old motor was the starting pulley. The original used a strap with an iron (or steel) hook in the end, instead of a piece of cord. The hook proved dangerous and was changed to the cord with a knot in the end.

Lou and Harry started building a model of the lightweight motor on Dec. 20, 1920 and resented any disruption of their work to get it into production.

"We tested the first four light engines about 1,500 hours in the tanks of the plant on Sample Street on the south bank of the St. Joe river," Clarence said. "I remember how embarrassed I was when one of the engines I was testing, with a loose clamp, fell into the water tank, and I was so anxious to get it out quickly I swallowed a lot of oily water."

"As I look back, I feel certain that even had there been no walnut tree grove on the Wabash river in 1903, the Johnson brothers, with Lou always leading, would have come up with a good engine."

The experimental motor was completed March, 1921, and April 1, the Johnson Motor Company was incorporated under the laws of Dela-



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ware. The new company formally replaced the old J.M.W.Co., with Warren Ripple, president, and Lou Johnson, secretary.

On Dec. 19, 1921, the first light-weight engine went into full scale production in the South Bend factory. The little engine weighed only 35 pounds complete, a two-cylinder, two-cycle motor that ran at a phenomenal 2,300 rpm and generated two horsepower. It had full pivot steering and reverse.

Other outboards on the market at the time manufactured by some thirty companies produced cumbersome, heavy, low-powered, bulky contraptions of cast iron and brass so weighty their vibrations shook apart light boats. Hard to handle, they produced only 1.5 hp. and turned 900 rpm.

The Johnson engine of 1921 was referred to both as "Light Twin" and "Waterbug." Eight years would pass before Carl Prell, a partner in a South Bend advertising agency, would conjure up the name "Sea Horse."

Even without that distinctive appellation, now known throughout the world, the Johnson Light Twin outboard engine of 1921 gained immediate acceptance by the public when introduced at a New York boat show early in 1922.

Selling at \$140, it brought dependability, speed and portability to the outboard, and it established Johnson Motors firmly and solidly as the outboard industry leader. For millions of people, they opened a whole new world of recreational enjoyment.

'Motor wheels' and outboards

Johnson Family saga — Part IV

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that "the first pay I received for the Johnson Motor Wheel Co. was half in cash and half in stock."

After its move from Terre Haute to South Bend in 1918, the J.M.W. Co. prospered. Some 17,000 of the motor bikes were sold. A firm in Chicago, Edwards & Christ, were the largest distributors of the vehicles, with others in Los Angeles and Philadelphia.

Then the Johnsons were hit by another "big wind," that of economic change. With the advent of the popular Model T Ford and the rumor that Ford was coming out with a car costing only \$365, the bottom fell out of the motor wheel business. And, with the nation's general economy suffering a strong recession, it wasn't long before the J.M.W. Co. folded.

"In those days, 1920 and 1921, you tried to get on any payroll you could," Conover recalled. "So, I spent four months in Chicago, helping Edwards & Christ take over our company's business."

But business setbacks couldn't wipe from the minds of the Johnson brothers their dream of building a practical, light weight outboard engine.

Conover laughed as he recalled an incident in 1920 when he told Lou he had a canoe at home and was going to put an engine in it. Lou suggested putting an engine on the outside of an old boat, and Conover scoffed with good humor at the idea of putting an outboard engine on the end of a boat.

A short time later, Lou interrupted a family dinner by clearing off the dining table and spreading out an assembly drawing he had done with Harry (Clarence was in Washington

on a government war job at the time). It was from that drawing that the first Johnson outboard motor was designed.

Four experimental motors were made, and from the four, Conover took parts and assembled one engine which he gave to his son. The four motors were made by hand and were kept running in tests so much that they were practically worn out.

The only thing not original equipment on this old motor was the starting pulley. The original used a strap with an iron (or steel) hook in the end, instead of a piece of cord. The hook proved dangerous and was changed to the cord with a knot in the end.

Lou and Harry started building a model of the lightweight motor on Dec. 20, 1920 and resented any disruption of their work to get it into production.

"We tested the first four light engines about 1,500 hours in the tanks of the plant on Sample Street on the south bank of the St. Joe river," Clarence said. "I remember how embarrassed I was when one of the engines I was testing, with a loose clamp, fell into the water tank, and I was so anxious to get it out quickly I swallowed a lot of oily water."

"As I look back, I feel certain that even had there been no walnut tree grove on the Wabash river in 1903, the Johnson brothers, with Lou always leading, would have come up with a good engine."

The experimental motor was completed March, 1921, and April 1, the Johnson Motor Company was incorporated under the laws of Dela-

Speaking
By Dorothy Clark

ware. The new company formally replaced the old J.M.W.Co., with Warren Ripple, president, and Lou Johnson, secretary..

On Dec. 19, 1921, the first light-weight engine went into full scale production in the South Bend factory. The little engine weighed only 35 pounds complete, a two-cylinder, two-cycle motor that ran at a phenomenal 2,300 rpm and generated two horsepower. It had full pivot steering and reverse.

Other outboards on the market at the time manufactured by some thirty companies produced cumbersome, heavy, low-powered, bulky contraptions of cast iron and brass so weighty their vibrations shook apart light boats. Hard to handle, they produced only 1.5 hp. and turned 900 rpm.

The Johnson engine of 1921 was referred to both as "Light Twin" and "Waterbug." Eight years would pass before Carl Prell, a partner in a South Bend advertising agency, would conjure up the name "Sea Horse."

Even without that distinctive appellation, now known throughout the world, the Johnson Light Twin outboard engine of 1921 gained immediate acceptance by the public when introduced at a New York boat show early in 1922.

Selling at \$140, it brought dependability, speed and portability to the outboard, and it established Johnson Motors firmly and solidly as the outboard industry leader. For millions of people, they opened a whole new world of recreational enjoyment.

Markle influence marked through the years — and today

JUN 24 1979

Family Genealogy

Today's column begins a three-part series on the subject of the Markle family, their travels to the site of the mill, and Major Markle's influence on the community, even to the present day.

Abraham Markle, one of the original proprietors of the Town of Terre Haute in 1818, was a miller by trade. He built and operated his first mill on Cascadilla Creek which runs through what is now the city of Ithaca, New York.

According to one source, he had owned the land upon which now stands Cornell University, and had built the first frame house in that town. He had served also as Ithaca's first town clerk. Around 1800, he moved to Canada and built and owned several mills in the vicinity of the present city of Hamilton, at the village of Ancaster.

At the beginning of the War of 1812, he was the representative from that town in the provincial assembly at York, now Toronto.

The close of the war left many former citizens of the United States, who had lived in Canada at the outbreak of the war, in a precarious situation because of the action of that Province in confiscating the property of those who had fought on this side or who had left the Province during the war without first securing a permit or license to leave.

Many who had taken no part in the activities of either army had come

over to this side to escape taking sides. Many others had taken up arms with the U.S. forces, and others had too openly welcomed the victorious invaders from the States.

All alike lost what property they owned in Canada, and while many had taken service with the troops and were able to support in some fashion those dependent upon them, the close of the war and their mustering out left them with no means of support and no property of any kind.

Trying to find a way to locate themselves on new land and to make a fresh start, Major Markle led a party of men on a tour of this western country in the summer of 1815. In the course of their journey on horseback, through forest and across streams traveling by compass and rude maps, they arrived at Fort Harrison, then hardly more than a small Indian trading post north of Vincennes.

History tells us there were possibly five men in the party..... Markle, Joseph Richardson, Captain Bigger, Mr. Harris and one other.

The tract known as the Harrison Purchase had been surveyed and was to be thrown open to settlement. Major Markle and his companions explored this portion of it with a view of choosing future home and business sites. Well qualified to judge land values, actual and potential, Markle selected what he wanted here and returned to New York.

According to an Act of March 8,

*Historically
Speaking*

By Dorothy Clark

1816, Canadian Volunteers, men who resided in Canada at the outbreak of the War of 1812, but who served in the U.S. Army and consequently forfeited their property in Canada, were provided grants in proportion to their army rank. Colonels received 960 acres; majors, 800; subalterns, 480, and non-commissioned, musicians and privates, 320 acres.

Canadian Volunteers also were provided three months additional pay according to their military rank, along with land grants issued by the Secretary of War and the laying of the warrants on any lands not previously appropriated.

Major Markle was the senior officer of a troop of mounted Canadians after the death of Lt. Col. Joseph Willocks at Fort Erie. He was the leader in the petition to Congress which brought about the passage of the Act.

Through his influence, the date of entry by the Canadians was 100 days earlier than the opening of sale to the general public. President Madison, by proclamation, set the opening of

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the tract known as the Harrison Purchase to the Canadian Volunteers on the first Monday in June, and to the public at large on the second Monday in September.

On June 3, 1816, Major Markle, after a journey of over a month on the rivers between Olean, N.Y., and Vincennes, Ind., appeared in the office of John Badollet with Land Warrant No.1. He announced his intention of laying the same on the site of Fort Harrison and on a mill site some three or four miles northeast of the fort.

By this action, Markle entered the first land in the Harrison Purchase. His grant of 800 acres of raw frontier land was hardly compensation for over 1,100 acres confiscated by the Crown, as well as the improvements of buildings, factories, distilleries, taverns and stores he had lost.

However, he bought the land war-

rant from other Canadian soldiers for as little as possible. In one case, \$24 for 324 acres, and in another, \$180 and \$160 for half-sections. The hard cash looked better to the veterans than unknown land 800 miles away.

Because Fort Harrison was still a military post in 1816 (and remained so until 1822), Markle was unable to obtain the valuable fractional sections along the Wabash river. Instead, he laid his warrant on the land lying between Seventh and 13th streets, from Maple Avenue north a mile and a half.

There was never any objection to his first entries of the mill site at Otter Creek where he built the mill and first house between June and September, 1816.

On the same date, he presented warrants for 2,080 acres for others whose warrants he held, one each for Jacob and Peter Lane, for land lying between Poplar and Hulman streets for a half mile east and west of Fruitridge Avenue.

He also had one warrant each for his son, Abraham Markle, Jr., and for the Widow McMillan for land between 19th and 30th for a half mile either side of Margaret Avenue; two warrants for Silas Fosgit, one of them lying between Seventh and 13th, Ma-

ple and Eighth avenues, and the other for a quarter section in the extreme northeastern corner of Harrison Township.

In addition to these, he took up three quarter-sections for Robert Huggins, two of them lying on the west side of Fruitridge between Maple and Fort Harrison Road, and the other on the east of Fruitridge fronting on Maple Avenue.

During the summer months, other land warrants were filed, and by the time of the public land sale in September, Canadian warrants were as good as gold.

Two days after the opening of the sale on Sept. 11, Joseph Richardson, ancestor of Juliet Peddle, located 1,120 acres in several tracts including the west bank of the river opposite the city, four parcels in northwestern Lost Creek township, and others in a section east of Markle's Mill.

The land along what is now North Seventh Street was perfect prairie land, well-drained, sandy loam, with not a stick or stone to obstruct the plow. In fact, when Markle reached here in June, 1816, he found several acres already plowed and planted in corn by a squatter.

The Markle story will continue next Sunday.....

SUNDAY, JULY 1, 1979.

The story of the Markle

Family continues

Dorothy
Clark

TS JUL 1 1979

Today's column continues the Markle story with the second of a three-part series. It begins with the journey from New York.....

The only way for immigrants to get to the Indiana Territory in 1816 was by water. The families traveled in wagons to Clean Point, on the Allegheny river where they had to wait for three flat boats to be built.

The owners of the boats were Major Markle, Joseph Richardson and Daniel Stringham. The first two men had such large families and so many possessions they occupied entire boats. The Stringham boat also carried the Webb, Bond, Redford families and possibly another family.

The largest boat was 81 feet long and 15 feet wide. A cabin occupied a greater part of this boat. At the bow and stern were small decks, a little lower than the gunwale, and the cabin floor was lower than those decks. At the end of the boat were steps leading down from the little decks through doors into the cabin. A number of windows lined both sides of the cabin.

On each side of the boat, from deck to deck, fastened to the gunwales and projecting over the water, were two planks two feet wide on each side of the boat. They extended beyond the cabin, so that one could step from them to the decks. Wooden cleats were nailed at regular intervals across these "running boards" and were intended as walking decks for the four men hired to navigate the boat.

Two would work at a time, armed with poles tipped with iron spikes, one man on each side of the boat. Standing with faces to the stern on boards at the bow end of the boat.

they set the ironed ends of the poles into the river. Placing the shoulder against the other end, and so pushing the poles, they slowly walked to the stern. The cleats prevented their feet from slipping. They then walked back to the bow, dragging the poles in the water, and began over again.

When these two men were tired, the other two took their places. There was always a man at the rudder to steer. Sometimes one of the older boys would steer while all four men took poles and worked hard to avoid running into snags or drift wood.

If the river was free of obstruction, and the water too deep for poles, all four men might rest and let the current float the boat downstream.

According to a Richardson family account, the boats were made as comfortable as possible. There were cupboards for dishes, shelving and pegs were put up for linen and clothing, sleeping compartments were partitioned off with curtains, and chairs, table and chests provided.

The storeroom was filled with provisions that would not spoil — sugar, tea, coffee, flour, rice, salt and other staples including salt meat. Fresh meat and game came from nearby forests, fish from the river.

In that early time, all cooking was done in open fireplaces. This was accomplished on the boats by building a circular wall of brick or stone to make a well over two feet deep and three feet in diameter on one end of the deck. The bottoms of the wells were filled with clay which was packed or pounded in a cone shape. Cooking fires were built on the clay, and pots and kettles were hung by pothooks from the crane attached to the firepits.

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By Dorothy Clark



It took nearly four weeks to build the boats. Then they were launched, furnished and loaded. The horses and wagons were sold, and the travelers began their journey about the first of April.

The Markle and Richardson families had been occupying a large double house since before the menfolk took off to explore the Wabash country. Each of the families had seven children, quite a handful for the two women, one of whom was pregnant during that time.

It was not safe to run the boats at night, except when there was bright moonlight. As the weather grew warm, travelers sometimes went ashore before sundown and cooked supper on the bank.

At Pittsburgh, they stopped for

supplies. Richardson went to a glass factory and bought wine glasses, tumblers and decanters, all of fine cut glass. He also purchased some china dishes.

Here Richardson put his family in Markle's care and started for Washington, D.C. The boats entered the Ohio river and continued west. At Ripley, Ohio, they stopped to see Mrs. Richardson's sister and family. Jane White, the niece, decided to go to Indiana with the travelers.

By the first of June, the boats had reached the mouth of the Wabash river. Now the boats had to be pushed upstream against the current. There was no floating now, and little rest for anyone. Every man and boy helped in some way. Those who were not poling, helped by "bush whacking."

When the channel allowed the boats to run near the shore and under overhanging tree branches, those on deck would take branch after branch in first one hand and then the other, pulling hard, and so lighten the labor of those who were poling.

They did not reach Vincennes until the third week in June. Here Mrs. Richardson received news that her husband was ill in Washington. Fort Harrison was still 60 miles farther upriver. They delayed only long enough for her to receive another letter, then they embarked June 27, and were within a few miles of the fort on July 3. Early the next morning there was friendly rivalry between the three boats to see who could get there first.

Charges of gunpowder were put in the guns at Fort Harrison, and the entire population of the military post and settlers was on the lookout for the new settlers. About six o'clock, boats were seen coming around the bend, the large boat leading with the Major's flag, the Stars and Stripes, floating from the bow. A salute was fired from the fort, and was answered by rousing cheers from the boats.

The officers of the garrison welcomed the strangers on the bank. After the boats were tied up, Major Markle invited them all to come aboard his boat where a table was spread with cakes and wines. A social hour was spent in drinking toasts, as was the custom of the day.

Dr. John McCollough, young Kentuckian and surgeon at the fort, fell in love with 15-year-old Matilda Richardson, and they were married the next year.

Mrs. Richardson and her family moved into the only unoccupied house in the settlement. Three other houses were put under construction, but until they were finished, Major Markle pitched his marquess, a large tent with open sides, and lived beneath it with his family. The two other families remained on their boats.

Old account books show Markle's Mill in operation in 1817. Listed items included lumber, cornmeal, flour and whisky. The original dam was constructed of heavy timbers and stone. The mill was built of timbers and lumber sawn at the site. At this point, was the most accessible ford over Otter Creek with a rock bottom, passable at all times.

Next Sunday's column will conclude this three-part series of the Markle story.

The Markle Family story —

TS JUL 8 1979

GEN.

Part III, 'The mill' . . .

Today's column concludes the three-part series of the Markle story. Last Sunday's column left the Markle family living under a large open-sided tent at Fort Harrison while they waited for their house and mill to be completed.

With but few exceptions, the earliest grist mills were powered from the action of the falling water on a wheel, the overshot model producing the most power because of the double action of the water, its flow which drove the undershot, and the breast type being augmented by the weight in the buckets.

In this type, the essential feature was the height to which the water could be delivered by a flume or race, while the breast type received the water at a lower level and turned in an opposite direction the undershot type being but slightly immersed in the stream, but with the water forced to push the paddles forward as it flowed.

The "float mill" was driven by an undershot wheel, but consisted of a wheel supported by a boat or barge and driven by the impact of the current of the stream, only a small part of the water being sent against the paddles.

Another type of mill was driven by what approximated the modern turbine, consisting in some cases of but a horizontal wheel with the water entering from the side at such an angle as to provide the maximum blow to the paddles and in other cases of a worm, sometimes vertical, but more often horizontal, which revolved through the push of the current.

The horizontal type of wheel was called a "splatter box," and it was this type that was first used at Markle's Mill. The mill stones were set horizontally, and, in the case of the vertical wheel, power from its shaft was transmitted to the shaft that drove the stones by wooden gears, mitered to an exact pattern by a mechanic of long training, to whom the calculations of pitch, miter and clearance had become instinctive.

Such a millwright frequently built a complete mill, wheels, gears, shaft, frame, studding, joists, rafters and all, with little else than his broad axe and his square.

The grist ground slowly, customers were sometimes few and far between, and the idle miller could improve his time and increase his earnings with side lines. He frequently needed a smithy, so his neighbors could obtain chains, ploughshares, and necessary tools until a full-time blacksmith arrived in the settlement.

Lumber was needed, so the grist mill became a sawmill, another sideline. And, since everyone raised a surplus of wheat, rye and corn, a very important sideline became the making of whisky. In 1823, 60 percent of sales at the mill were whisky!

The development of a general store at the mill was logical when trading or bartering was the name of the game. Very little hard money changed hands in those early days.

Early in June, 1817, Lucius H. Scott arrived at Fort Harrison with letters of introduction to Major Markle. His walk took him across Otter Creek Prairie which he described as "not a tree, or a house, or a fence, or plowed field or other indication of home or

civilization presented themselves to view, but all was one boundless, magnificent bed of beautifully variegated flowers."

Scott was received at the Markle house with the frank, graceful hospitality for which the Major was so widely celebrated. "He was a splendid type of pioneer," he said. "I thought him the most magnificent specimen of manhood I had ever seen. He stood head and shoulders above them all."

Vigo county records begin in 1818, and there are numerous references to Markle. He was frequently fined for assault and battery. The fines of one cent each were put in the local education fund, and he seemed to be the sole support of the local schools. These frequent indictments were attributed to his "fiery French Canadian temper" which is certainly debatable.

In 1823, he was fined \$15 for playing unlawful games and betting on cards, etc., at Nathaniel Huntington's tavern. Huntington, the first Vigo County Prosecutor, was born in New York and came to Indiana with his

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Speaking Ts JUL 3 1979

By Dorothy Clark



brothers, Elisha M. and Callum, both of whom became prominent citizens.

In 1819 he married Aula Markle, daughter of Major Markle, and after her death in 1820, married Cynthia Tuttle, daughter of Gershom Tuttle, in 1821. Nathaniel died of yellow fever in New Orleans in 1830, and his widow married another brother, John Huntington.

Henry Redford, who came from New York on Daniel Stringham's boat, built the Eagle & Lion Tavern in Terre Haute. This two-story log tavern was opened the following winter, and on the Fourth of July, 1817, the big celebration was held there.

In 1824, Henry Markle, son of Major Markle, and Nathaniel Huntington

were authorized to build a toll bridge at Markle's Mill and collect tolls varying from one to two cents a head for stock to 25 cents for heavy vehicles.

On March 25, 1826, Major Markle burst a blood vessel in his head while pulling a fence post. He complained but little, ate supper and went to bed. A heavy storm set in that night with high winds and rain, and someone went in to his room and found him dead.

He left the widow, Catherine, and eight children, four of them minors: Nelson, Joseph, Napoleon and Frederick, an infant. He left no will, and a tangled estate which took years to probate.

His son, Frederick, born 1809 in Canada, came here with the family and grew to manhood here. He attended the first school in Vigo county established in 1817, a little south of the mill, a subscription school operated by Dr. Alva Hotchkiss.

At the age of 17 years, when his father died, Frederick became a stage coach builder and conducted a line between Terre Haute and Lafayette for a number of years, but in time became interested in the flour mill business and erected mills in Roseville, Ind., and Kankakee, Ill. He also owned Markle's Mill.

Frederick served two years as Vigo County Commissioner and was the Republican incumbent for that office when he died in 1865, at the age of 56 years. He and his wife, Sarah B. Denny (1816-88), had ten children, nine sons and one daughter.

William D. Markle, born 1841, entered the mill business at the age of 15 years, became a partner at the age of 21, and owner at his father's death. In 1898, he quit milling to become a builder and contractor until his retirement in 1906.

In 1869, William married Anna Elizabeth Rogers, born 1847, the daughter of Milton and Mary S. Rogers, and they had six children. As the generations of Markle descendants married and had children they used the same family names until sorting out the family tree gets to be quite a puzzle. I've traced only this one line of descent, because these were the men and their families who occupied the present Markle House, built in 1848.

It's ironic that after Fort Harrison was evacuated as a government military post at the end of 1819, the reserved lands were soon after advertised for sale. The fraction was sold to William Markle, the son of Major Markle, who wanted it so badly but couldn't obtain it.

It's ironic, too, that Major Markle only lived here ten years, 1818-1828, but made his mark on the community which will carry on forever. His name is found on nearly every abstract in the surrounding area, either as the first owner, or as one of the original Town Proprietors who founded the city in 1816.

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark



TS APR 13 1980

Musical moments in Naylor family

A descendant of William Naylor, who fought the Indians at the Battle of Fort Harrison in 1812 and was also at the famous Battle of Tippecanoe, was interviewed several years ago. Mary Louise Naylor was born in Terre Haute at the corner of Eighth and Oak streets, the daughter of

Thomas C. Naylor.

Her ancestor was one of the Kentucky soldiers who marched with William Henry Harrison on his expedition north from Vincennes and helped build Fort Harrison. After the War of 1812 was over, Naylor became a resident of Vigo County, and the

name of Naylor has been well known in the area since that time. If there's a connection between this family and the Naylor Opera House, it was not mentioned.

In 1894, Thomas C. Naylor organized the famous Naylor Orchestra from the members of his own family, but Miss Naylor did not join until 1896. As the cornetist of the family group, she became the only female cornet player in this part of the country at that time.

One of her prized possessions was a group portrait of the Naylor Orchestra, showing her father with his flute, the mother who played double bass, her three brothers—Max with his cello, Charles, the violinist, Frank with the Italian harp, and Miss Naylor, a young lady of 12 years, with her cornet.

On Sundays and holidays, the orchestra played dinner music at the Hotel Filbeck, one of the most fashionable eating places in Terre Haute at that time. It was located on the northeast corner of Fifth and Cherry streets. They also played at

the Country Club dinners and dances, and for most of the public dances.

On April 14, 1899, the Naylor Orchestra performed for a Grand Ball at the Bindley Hall on Wabash Avenue. Admission was 75 cents with ladies free.

For two seasons the orchestra played concerts at Collett Park on Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons and nights. One crowd was estimated at 3,000. They also performed at the Harrison Park which was located just north of Collett Park where the Chautauquas were held.

One of the highlights of Miss Naylor's musical career occurred during the week-long ceremonies dedicating the Masonic Temple. In honor of her father, a Past Master of Social Lodge 86 in 1896, she played the "Overture to Poets and Peasants" and the very difficult "Short and Sweet," a triple-tongue polka. Her accompanist was Minnie Hoberg, whose father was also a Past Master of 86.

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An enormous crowd of Masons and their families surrounded the platform and extended all the way out to the street. After overcoming stagefright because of the huge crowd, she was called back for two encores.

It was Naylor who rescued the Masonic records from the Naylor Opera House at the northeast corner of Fourth and Wabash when the spectacular fire occurred in 1896. The Masonic Hall was located in that building at that time.

The Naylor Orchestra always played for the week-long lawn fetes held for the benefit of St. Anthony's Hospital. It was here that the famous song "Bird in a Gilded Cage" was played for the first time in Terre Haute.

Miss Naylor organized the Washington Avenue Presbyterian

Church Sunday School orchestra when the Rev. Frank Fox was pastor there.

A family orchestra was not all fun, according to Miss Naylor. In addition to all their public engagements, it was necessary to practice every free evening from 8 to 10 p.m. to learn new music to add to their repertoire.

And then, there were her piano lessons given by Professor Herman Leibing, a stern old German, who counted "one, two, tree," as he paced the floor during lessons.

She also had many memories of her school days at Indiana State. The orchestra stopped playing for the public as a family group in 1907 when her brother Charles married and moved away from Terre Haute. Another brother continued to follow a musical career as xylophone soloist with Sousa's Band.

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Historically Speaking

Land for 'Merchants of Louisville'

Valley T s APR 25 1982

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Knowledge of local history, the past of one's town, county and state, as well as of our country, gives us roots, as it were, and helps us better understand and evaluate the present. It makes all about us more interesting. The lives of the men and women who preceded us and the institutions they developed are our heritage.

It is interesting to know about the Indians who may have hunted on a nearby creek, the pioneers who cleared neighboring farms, the merchants, lawyers, doctors and industrialists who built our towns. It is a real life story more thrilling and more intimate and vital to us than any fiction or television serial version.

Known as "The Merchants of Louisville," Cuthbert and Thomas Bullitt were big landlords and seasoned promoters of wilderness communities. People spoke of the brothers as if they were the only ones in business in that bustling, brawling river town.

They had entered vast tracts of land in southern Indiana and were almost always the first to buy lots in the stout-hearted new towns that were springing up in Indiana and Kentucky. Paoli and Terre Haute were among the new Hoosier communities in which they invested.

Where they bought, it appears, they created business. They established mills and opened other enterprises. In 1817 they purchased the "lands, houses, outhouses, edifices and buildings, together with the woods, trees, fences, gardens and orchards" of Samuel Jackson, owner of what is now Springmill State Park.

The Bullitts were Virginians. They had moved to Louisville in 1804. Cuthbert, the elder, had married before the migration. His wife, Anne Neville, was the daughter of General Joseph Neville, a hero of the Revolutionary War and one of the surveyors of the Mason-Dixon line. Thomas waited until he came West to marry. His bride, a lovely Kentucky belle Diana Moore Gwathmey, was the favorite niece of General George Rogers Clark, the Midwest's Revolutionary hero.

The brothers ruled their wilderness empire from mansions overlooking

a picturesque sweep of the Ohio river. The farmstead stretched over much of what is now Louisville, including most of the business district from the river front to Broadway.

Cuthbert and Thomas Bullitt had big plans for Jackson's little valley. First, the little grist mill, which had been big enough for neighborhood trade, must give way to a new modern, efficient mill whose stone walls would be three feet thick, three stories high.

By the time spring arrived at Spring Mill, the valley swarmed with laborers and skilled craftsmen, carpenters, stonemasons, and millwrights. A ponderous, slow-moving overshot water wheel, 24 feet in diameter, would provide power to turn the heavy grinding stones. To turn such a wheel, a big stream of water was required, and a flume two feet high and four feet wide was hewn of poplar and braced with wrought iron. This flume was carried by tall limestone piers. Entire trees would be required for the timbers of the building. Building stones came from a nearby quarry.

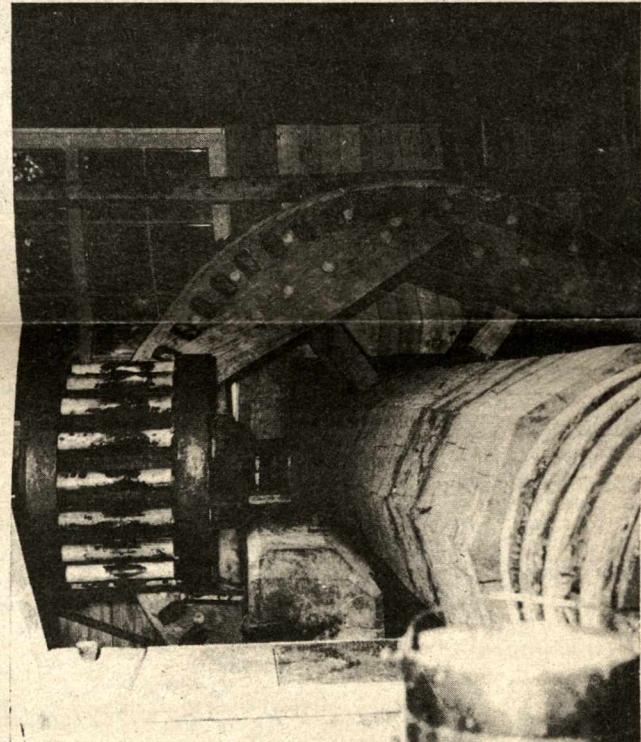
Uriah Glover, a Virginian, was employed by the Bullitts to supervise construction and to manage the mill. A house was built for Glover and his family. Facing it across the lawn was another house, even bigger and finer, where the Bullitts lived on their frequent visits.

Before long Bullitt's Mills was a thriving community and amazingly successful frontier enterprise. New buildings were added, and after seven years the Bullitts saw an opportunity to turn a neat profit and sold out for over \$20,000. They were more interested in development than in operation of the mill, two big residences, all the stores, shops and cabins in the bustling little village, along with 1,440 acres of Hoosier land.

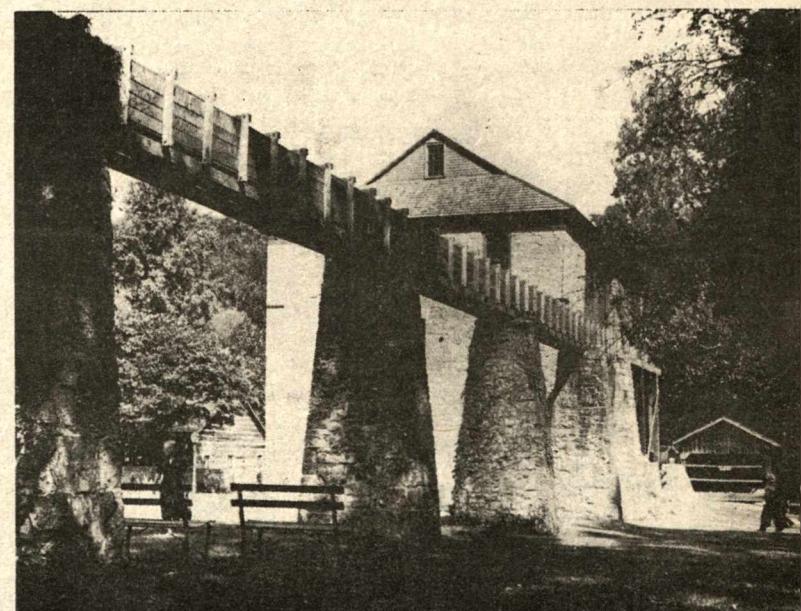
Along with Abraham Markle, Hyacinth Lasselle and Jonathan Lindley, the Bullitt brothers were two of the original proprietors of the new Town of Terre Haute in 1816. They owned shares in the Terre Haute Land Company divided into twelfths — the Bullitts, two each; Lindley, four; Markle and Lasselle, three each.



Cuthbert Bullitt



The mill machinery is handmade of wood.



A flume carries water to the mill.

BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES YOU READ ABOUT CELEBRITIES

By Josie



ELL, EVERYBODY HAS ONE: A visitor to the "Today" set recently overheard the following conversation between co-anchors Jane Pauley and Bryant Gumbel during a commercial break. Gumbel: "You know, bathrooms in New York tend to be purely functional, tactical." Pauley: "I agree, I've never had the bathroom that I really aspire to." Gumbel: "In California, it's different. Bathrooms and kitchens tend to be the center of your social life." Pauley: "That's why I want to buy an apartment in New York. So I can knock down walls and build a bathroom as big as I want." It must be a trend. Larry Hagman was recently overheard in New York's Russian Tea Room involved in an animated discussion about cesspools.

Q. Bill Bradley, the senator from New Jersey, played on a basketball team that won the NBA Championship. Which team and which years did they win? W. Siren, Astoria, Ore.

A. The team was the New York Knicks and their championship years with Bradley were 1970 and 1973. Bradley was quite a character with the team, too. "He never stopped moving," recalls a team official. He used to run the hell out of the defensive players attached to him. Off the court he was special as well. "(He was) so superior intellectually to the rest of the players that he really was a loner among them. Most of his friends were outside of the game," the official explains. Still, the former Rhodes Scholar wasn't too removed from his teammates to pick up two nicknames: "Dollar Bill," referring to the sum of his reportedly generous contract and "Mr. President," quite appropriate now, given his up and coming status within the Democratic Party.

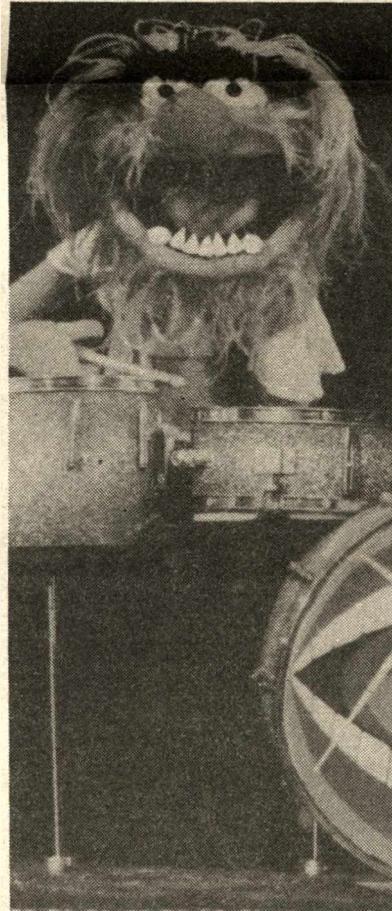
Q. Why are all the Muppets in the Muppet band left-handed? S. Wood, Portland, Ore.

A. Interesting question, and one that the Muppet masters at Jim Henson Associates get very often from left-handed fans. The answer stems from the practical realities of operating a Muppet. The Muppeteer (who is ambidextrous) has to insert his/her right hand into the Muppet's head to operate the face, and so his/her left hand is the one that will play the musical instrument, which is accomplished by pulling on a rod attached to the Muppet's left arm. If anything is required of the Muppet's right arm, that arm has to be manipulated by another Muppeteer.



Q. How does Priscilla Presley deal with all of the ghastly books coming out about her late husband? And what does she tell her daughter? J. Carpenter, Auburn, Calif.

A. According to an associate of Priscilla's, she's "immune" to those stories by now. "She's just heard them so many times, she doesn't even react anymore," he says. As for 13-year-old Lisa Marie, her mother isn't going out of her way to explain anything, he says. "They don't talk about it." Whether this code of supposed silence can remain indefinitely, however, is highly doubtful.



About the cover

A shadow of yesterday...forgotten in the weeds of a Vigo County field.

Staff photo/Bob Poynter

Anything you'd like to know about prominent personalities? Write: "Between the Lines," Terre Haute Tribune-Star, 721 Wabash Ave., Terre Haute, Ind., 47808. We regret we cannot answer any letters individually.

Clark, Dorothy + Pioneers (v1)

New Englanders found beauty in

TUES DEC 25 1983

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

School teacher Moody Chamberlain married his sweetheart, Betsey Dole, also a school teacher, in Bedford, N.H., in 1820. Their teaching certificates dated in 1813 and 1814 showed him to be "a young gentleman of moral rectitude and well qualified to instruct common English schools in our country," and her to be "well qualified to instruct an English grammar school."

As so many other young couples at that time, the newlyweds decided to leave their New England home and set out on the long journey to the wilderness of Indiana. Slowly and steadily they traveled, making nearly the entire trip by water to the little village of Terre Haute situated in the "beautiful valley of the Wabash."

Day after day, this group of neighbors made their way downstream, camping at night on the banks, keeping watch for In-

Historically speaking

dians, sometimes delayed by swollen streams, sometimes detained for weeks by frozen waters, month after month, going west to the land of opportunity.

Floating down the Ohio River, they reached the mouth of the Wabash River. Then they forced their flatboats upstream, by the aid of long poles, until they reached Terre Haute.

Late one afternoon in 1821, two men of Terre Haute rode in from the woods where they had been cutting down trees. They announced another flatboat had been sighted coming up river.

The entire village was excited. Who could they be? From where had they come? Were they your relatives or mine? What news did they bring from friends back home in the east? Would they stop in Terre Haute or move farther north?

If there was any power in the united spirit of the entire population

Wabash Valley

New Englanders found beauty in

of Terre Haute, these newcomers would not go farther north or west. Terre Haute needed more citizens, and the present residents would be more than cordial to them. From every log cabin in the village the people came out to welcome the travelers.

Moody Chamberlain and his bride had reached their new home. Graciously declining all invitations to stay in town where all homes were opened to them, they decided to camp out in the country near the trail until they could build their own home.

The campsite they chose was in the big prairie east of town, where the Terre Haute House now stands. They chose a tract of woodland south of the trail, away from the town square, and built their log cabin on Ohio Street.

Later Mr. Chamberlain purchased several lots on North Seventh Street, now comprising all the land from the

Terre Haute Gas Co. (built on the site of the old Minshall home) on Cherry Street, to the former Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library. As nearly as can be determined, his two-story frame house was built on the spot where the Minshall home, once used as the Woman's Department Club, stood. About 1880, the Chamberlain house was moved to the east side of Terre Haute.

Moody Chamberlain wasted no time in proving himself a valuable citizen of Terre Haute. In addition to money, which gave him power and social standing, he possessed mental ability and became an outstanding leader in the community. His associates and intimate friends were Henry and Chauncey Rose, A. L. Chase and Judge Huntington.

He was among the first to petition for a public school here and pledged \$100 toward its construction. In 1827 Terre Haute's first public school was built at the northwest corner of Fifth and Walnut streets.

After living here four years, he honored by being

RENTAL
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elected associate judge of the Circuit Court of Vigo County for a seven-year term, but before the expiration of this second term in 1839, he had started a business career.

He traded his town property as part payment on a 56-acre farm northeast of town in Lost Creek Township. In partnership with A. L. Chase, he built a sawmill near Mill Run Creek.

Times were hard in 1837. Money was scarce and local banks charged an exorbitant percent for cashing notes. Chauncey Rose emphatically refused to pay the 15 percent tax on bills payable in New Orleans. He was quoted as saying "he will be d-d if we shall pay!"

In the old Chamberlain residence which was built in 1843 on East Maple Avenue, Moody and Betsey reared eight children. One of these children was H. Chamberlain, born 1821, in Harrison Township, Vigo Co., Ind. After his father's death in 1862, and his mother's death in 1868, he took over his father's land and farmed it. In 1853 he married Mary E. Dickerson, daughter of John

Dickerson, and they had three children: Volney C., Imogen, and Fredric.

Moody Chamberlain was born in 1791, and his wife, Betsey Dole, was born in 1795. Their contributions to Terre Haute were many and varied. West of Seelyville was a steam grist and saw mill still in operation in 1880. A blacksmith shop located there also was owned by Moody Chamberlain, blacksmith, born in 1832 in Lost Creek Township. At 18 he went to Clinton, Ind., and served an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade, and after working a short time in Terre Haute, built his own shop in 1853.

In 1856, young Moody married Martha Clark, a native of Hamilton County, Ohio. They had five children: Ida M., Edwin C., Corrinna, Harvey R. and Jennie.

In 1930, the Moody Chamberlain homestead, a sturdy, eight-room house built by a Mr. Van Tassel for the Judge and his wife, was owned by a grandson, Edwin Coltrin. Some of the original furnishings had been preserved — cabinets, spinning wheel, four-poster bed, split bottom chairs, etc.

Smock family adds color to Vigo County's history

1 JUN 1985
The local Smock family not only has an interesting connection with Fort Harrison, but can trace its ancestry back to William Smock, Revolutionary soldier.

His son, David Smock, married Dorcas Cole — both natives of Bullitt County, Ky., and of Pennsylvania-Dutch origin — and came to Parke County, Ind., in 1825. They brought six children with them to their new farm in Raccoon Township, and then had four more.

Names of five of the 10 children are known: Matthias, Nathan, Jacob, Jasper and Cornelius Charles.

The Rev. Jacob Smock, ordained Baptist minister, was born in Kentucky. He married Caroline Puett, daughter of Armstead (Olmstead) and Sarah (Milligan) Puett. Jacob's children included James, Mary J., Jasper D., Alexander, Josephine, Ida M., Maude and Rose. Three died in infancy.

Following the death of his wife Sarah, the Rev. Smock married again in 1881, Dianah Wilson, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Spray) Wilson, who were Quakers. They had one child, Wilma H. Smock.

Alexander, son of the Rev. Smock, became a merchant and farmer in Parke County. In 1888 he married Sarah A. Barnes, one of the nine children of Thomas A. and Helen (Jessup) Barnes. They had two children, Ada L. and Oliver C. Smock.

Four of Smock's daughters went on the stage and became famous actresses. Josephine, who married Walter Baldwin and became a star in her husband's Baldwin Comedy Company; Ida M., who married Samuel T. Young and became a star in her husband's Sam T. Young Comedy Company; Rose, who also was an actress with the Young Company and married Harry Hardy of Ohio; and Maude, who married Oscar Anderson and

Clip to Nancy S.
Clark Dorothy

Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

retired from stage life to live with her commercial traveler husband in Wisconsin.

For an ordained Baptist minister who had baptized more than 800 people in Sullivan, Vigo and Parke counties to have four daughters become well known actresses, the Melville Sisters, was an unusual turn of events.

Certainly Melville sounded more theatrical in those days than Smock, but the name change may have been due to their father being a preacher. Rose became the most famous as "Sis Hopkins," title role in Sam Young's play entitled "Zeb Clodhopper." Young's wife Ida played the title role in the play and was the original Sis Hopkins. They later sold the rights to sister Rose who went on to become world famous in the comedy role.

Knowing every phase of theater business, Young wrote plays, acted and managed. He was best known for his Chinese character comedy roles. He opened Young's Garden Theater, at what was later 319 Ohio St.

All open air theaters in those days were called Airdomes. However, the first year it was open it rained continuously, so Young put a roof on the structure. Later he managed the Savoy Theater on Wabash Avenue. It was his father, also Samuel Young, who founded

+ Powers (WV)
the little town of Youngstown south of Terre Haute.

The Melvilles, Josephine (who later changed her name to Pearl), Ida, Maude and Rose, played in stock companies and traveled all over the United States.

The next generation of the family continued in the theater. Pearl's son, Walter Baldwin, made movies and television shows in Hollywood.

After Rose's retirement, movie actress Judy Canova starred in a movie portraying the life story of Rose and Sis Hopkins.

Cornelius Charles Smock, son of David and Dorcas and grandson of Revolutionary veteran William Smock, married in Vigo County Mary "Polly" (St. Clair), widow of Milton Evans, daughter of Eli St. Clair and Frances "Fannie" Siner, daughter of another Revolutionary soldier Benjamin Siner and his wife Mary Maladay. C.C. Smock and Polly had at least three children: Mathias, Emma and Charles Cornelius Smock.

Cornelius Charles Smock became a trader who flatboated stock downriver, coming back on foot or horseback. He was robbed and poisoned at St. Louis. The body was returned and buried in Union Graveyard, Otter Creek Township, Vigo County, Indiana. His wife was also buried there.

About the time they were married in 1848, C.C. purchased the site of Fort Harrison. As a skilled carpenter he used some of the logs and other materials from the fort to build a house for his family. Some of the logs were used to build a pigpen.

At the northwest corner of what is now Seventh Street and Fort Harrison Road was once Smock's race track where he could test the speed of his race horses. Horse traders and racing fans came from all over to try out their horses on this track and to buy fast mounts from Mr. Smock.

Vigo County Public Library

of the land

Life in the wilderness

Crosby carved existence out

TUES FEB 16 1986

Community Affairs File

Clark, Dorothy

In 1877 Nathan Crosby wrote an account of his ancestors, a privately printed genealogy.

The book concerned the earliest Crosby, a 22-year-old man in 1752, and his 20-year-old wife, and year-old son, Josiah, born in Bedford, Mass. Josiah (1751-1833) fought in the Revolutionary War, was a farmer and managed to survive the perils of the wilderness.

He located good land off in the woods, opened a crooked, uneven road that avoided the biggest trees and other hazards. He felled trees to clear a few acres, used the best logs to build a small cabin, burned out the stumps, ran a brush and pole fence around this cleared ground, and let his cow browse in the woods. With his wife's help, he dug out the stumps around his cabin and barn and piled up his felled trees for burning.

When a plow could be used, he planted his fields. Oxcarts were scarce, and without a horse, Josiah had to carry the corn to the mill on his shoulder. Bears broke down his corn and caught his sheep. Wolves destroyed his lambs ... foxes and hawks seized his chickens ... the woodchuck tumbled down his clover and ate his cabbages ... while the pigeons, crows and squirrels pulled up his planted corn and rye and even shared his fall crops.

Early farmers depended on springs or nearby brooks for water. Wells and pumps would come much later. There were no corn shellers, no mowing machines or horse rakes, no patent reapers, no threshers or winnowing machines. They used the old brake, swing knife and flail to prepare flax and

Historically speaking



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grain for use.

The young wife received a featherbed, spinning wheel, perhaps a half dozen sheep, as many chairs, a table and dishes, a wooden chest with homespun clothes and a wedding-go-to-meeting suit as her marriage portion. She devoted her days to the distaff, the cradle and her housework, but also helped with farm work.

Every family made its own clothing, raised its own food, made its own roads and taught its children to read and write. It was an old rule for one child to remain at home so that the fire should not go out for the old people, the well become dry, or there be no herd in the stall.

The housewife kept her dye pot in the chimney corner and knew how to color stockings and mitts. She mixed black and white sheep's wool for gray dresses. Food cooked over the kitchen fireplace was served in pewter or wooden dishes.

One mug of cider or water answered for the whole family,

passing from lip to lip all around the table. One central dish of pudding and one of meat, all cut up, served for all. Each one plunged in and chose for himself, except that company was allowed first choice, and the pudding was first to be served. Potatoes were baked in the hot ashes.

Hemlock or birch brooms were used to sweep. A white birch sapling was split and the lower end of the handle part was shaved into slivers, which were then tied together. Shaker brooms made of broom corn, first in a round mass, later flat, were neat, durable and cheap.

If boys were not glad to get up early in the morning, they were surely glad to go to bed early, as soon as it was dark, for they were expected to work and run all day. They brought in the wood and water for the night; fed the cattle, pigs and chickens; prepared wood for the fires; ate breakfast; and were off to school at 9 a.m.

Boys had to "go to mill," pick rocks, pull weeds, run errands. At an early age they were expected to drive a team to draw the year's wood in severe winter weather from a woodlot maybe half a mile away. They made sugar in the spring, and worked with gangs of men on the land from seed-planting to harvest-gathering.

Parents insisted that their children should learn to read, write and cipher. It was a matter of pride to be able to sign one's name instead of making an "X" signature. Early schools were lucky if they had a spelling book, geo-

REFERENCE
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graphy, arithmetic and grammar. Students recited aloud and wrote on their slates. There were no children's story books to stimulate the young mind.

Institutions of higher learning were located in larger towns. Young boys were not encouraged to become professional men. Farmers, coopers, carpenters and clothiers were needed. Crosby told how his brother, Josiah, was the first member of the family to be sent off for higher education. He took his medical degree in 1816 in the East.

He described his boyhood as "a great deal of work and very little play in a very rough and rude country."

"The people were scattered over the hills, and the woods were abundant and dense; the roads were bad, and the houses were small; clothing was coarse; and the manners of the people were blunt but kind; the schools had poor teachers, poor books and poor lessons; the terms were short, and the vacations long; boys worked at 10 or 12 years of age to help their fathers subdue the ground and make it productive; education and personal culture were of necessity neglected."

Guns were scarce and ammunition expensive, so birds, squirrels and muskrats were caught in snares, box-traps and "figure-fours."

Josiah remembered dancing to the fiddle on Muster Days; wrestling and pitching quoits; and eating gingerbread and maple sugar candy.

Helts' numbers put their name on new township

Is APR 13 1986

Community Affairs File

In 1824, immediately after Vermillion County, Ind., was organized, the settlers met to vote on a name for the township.

The two names proposed were Helt and Swayze. The Helt faction won because there were more Helts than Swayzes in the area.

The pioneers of Helt's Prairie worked hard to have the necessities for their little settlement. At first, their milling was done at Fort Sackville. When grain needed to be milled, one man made the trip for several families.

On one occasion, Daniel Helt

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Community Affairs File



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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

took grain for his family and several of his neighbors and was gone down river for six weeks. So many settlers were waiting at the mill for the same service, he was unable to complete his mission any sooner.

Because timber was vital to the pioneer, it became necessary to have a sawmill in the community. In the early 1820s, Alfred Taylor opened a sawmill on Norton Creek on land owned later by Joe Helt.

Sandstone used for tombstones and for house and barn foundations was quarried along the Helt and Clinton township line, slightly northwest of Fairview Park. The old quarry could still be located in the woods on a farm owned by Ed Kaniser.

About 1824 John Campbell established a ferry across the Wabash River about 60 rods north of Summit Grove. David Miller, another early settler, ran the ferry for a number of years. He cut and sold timber from the prairie for use on the boats plying the Wabash. This place was known all up and down the river as Miller's Landing.

A little later a grain mill and a slaughterhouse were built just across the river at Mecca. These establishments were patronized by the settlers living as far west as the Illinois line.

The first doctor referred to in any record was Dr. Otis Keyes. His office was just south of the Mound on the farm later occupied by George Potter. Doctors apparently were just as overworked then as now. Keyes would make his calls as long as physically possible. Then he would go to the home of William Bales where he could hide out and rest until he had recuperated.

Jacob Miller was paid \$1 a day for raking and binding wheat in 1833. One day he raked and bound 183 bundles, apparently a record for this type of farm work. At that time \$1 a day seemed a good wage. John Staats drove a team of oxen hauling rails to Chicago for that amount.

The oldest house in Vermillion County, as far as continuous occupancy was concerned, was the one occupied by Leigh Mack on the northern edge of Helt's Prairie, about seven miles north of Clinton on the west side of Indiana 63. Built in 1828 by Samuel Ryerson, the bricks were handmade and the mortar was composed of mussel shells from the Wabash.

Religion was important to the settlers of Helt Township with the Methodists organizing as early as 1821. Meeting in John Helt's barn, this group was called Helt's Prairie Class, the forerunner of the group that founded Salem Methodist Church in 1846, the first permanent church in the township.

In 1828 the Rev. Warner from Parke County did the preaching for this group whose first members were John Helt and his wife, Samuel Rush, Mrs. Mary Helt, Edmund Jones and wife, Collon James and John James and his wife.

In 1830 a group of Methodists organized as the Asbury Chapel Class. Their services were held in homes and barns until a church was built in 1850 in the Mound neighborhood, south of Dana, and apparently on the farm owned later by Edmon and Miriam Goforth.

In 1834 the Spring Hill Methodist Class was organized in the home of Joel Blakesley. Other members of this class were Zach James, Jane Ford, Sarah Ponton, Stephen Harrington, William Kearns, Enoch White and wife, Martha Ponton and Nathaniel Barnes and wife. In 1835 this group built a log cabin for church purposes on the farm later owned by Frank Call.

The history of early schools in Helt Township prior to 1830 is unknown. There was a one-room log school less than a mile due east of Center Church, on the north side of the road on the farm later owned by Charles B. Helt. This school was referred to as "Frog College."

In 1850 a young lady, Anna Anderson, was hired to teach here. Josiah Church and Charles Helt offered to attend on alternate days to protect her from the older students. She declined the offer and suffered no serious harm, later becoming the wife of William Bales. He donated an acre of land for a school where later the Ared Lamb farm was located.

In 1840 there was a small school east of what is now Dana, at the intersection of the B&O Railroad and the first gravel road east of Dana. This was known as the Hood School, named for Simeon Hood, an early settler. The Mound School was built about 1842 just south of the Mound, about three miles southeast of Dana.

Tracing the Helts roots...

TS APR 20 1986

Helt's Prairie Cemetery, probably the oldest in Vermillion County, Ind., is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of the Overpeck Road and Indiana 63, about 2½ miles north of Clinton.

As nearly as can be determined, the first burial was that of a Mrs. McElawane, daughter of one of the Aye family who came from Ohio with the Helt family. Jacob Aye was the father-in-law of Michael Helt.

The inscription on this early tombstone is badly weathered, but the year 1817 is still clear. This further substantiates the belief that the Helts built their first log cabins on the prairie in 1816 and returned for settlement in 1817. It is unlikely that they would have transported a dead body over land for burial, so it seems probable that Mrs. McElwane died on Helt's Prairie.

Another older tombstone records the death of William Houghland in 1819. In spite of attempts to establish other graveyards in this vicinity, most of the early settlers used Helt's Prairie Cemetery as their burying place.

A simple little monument located beneath two huge walnut trees marks the grave of the great-grandmother of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Inscribed on the unusual stone decorated with a dove and other designs are the words: "Antoinette Stover, wife of Daniel Stover. Born Aug. 10, 1810; Died Jan. 7, 1884."

A number of Wabash Valley residents are descended from the same pioneer stock as Eisenhower. Jacob Stover, founder of the ancestral line from which Daniel descended, was a colorful

Community Affairs File

Clark Dorothy

Historically speaking



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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

character.

He was the first man to cross the Blue Ridge Mountains. He held crown grants for hundreds of thousands of acres of land in Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. One of his grants extended from Front Royal and Petersburg west to the Mississippi River.

Jacob Stover made several trips to England and appeared before Parliament in the interest of his grant, which he had received with one stipulation — that he have a certain number of colonists settled by a certain date. He recruited settlers in Switzerland and the Palatinate, and a contingent was on its way, but time was running out as the deadline approached. Whether guilty or not, he was accused of listing the names of his animals as colonists to fill his required quota.

When Jacob Stover died around 1730, his land reverted to the Crown, but his son, Jacob Stover Jr., along with several other pioneers including Daniel Boone, Jean Xavier and Julius Dugger, moved on to the frontiers of North

Carolina.

Actually, Daniel and Antoinette Stover were residents of Carter County, Tenn. The reason she is buried in Vermillion County is that she died while visiting her son-in-law and daughter, James A. and Margaret (Stover) Dugger, who had settled there following the Civil War.

The Helt family of Vermillion County stems from John Helt Sr., a Revolutionary War soldier who came from Germany and settled in Pennsylvania prior to 1763. He had three sons, Michael, Daniel and George, and a daughter, Elizabeth, all born in Washington County, Pa., between 1788 to 1800. They migrated to Ohio shortly after 1800.

Michael and Daniel served under Gen. William H. Harrison during the Indian uprising. In 1811, they helped build Fort Harrison and fought in the Battle of Tippecanoe. On the return march they noticed the small fertile prairie with excellent pasture, tillable land and an ample supply of timber and water.

On their return to Ohio they convinced old John Sr. that he and his family should move to Indiana, but their plans were stalled when Daniel and Michael were called back into service for the War of 1812. In the spring of 1815, Helt, his sons, daughter and her husband, Augustus Ford, began their flatboat trip from Columbus, Ohio.

The cargo included livestock, seed, feed, furniture, clothing and food. They sailed down the Scioto River to the Ohio, to the mouth of the Wabash. From here they poled their boat upstream to Fort Sackville where they stayed until spring of 1816, and the danger

from Indian attack was over. They built three log cabins on Helt's Prairie and returned to Fort Sackville. Wabash River flooding delayed their return until the spring of 1817.

Tying up near Fort Harrison, the turbulent river snapped their mooring lines and the men had to swim to the boat and land it a few miles downstream. When the water receded, the party once again started upstream to their new home. In the cabin nearest the river, they found a squatter, Obadiah Swayzee, had taken possession. Rather than resort to bloodshed, they helped the squatter build another cabin. Differences between the Helts and the Swayzees were never resolved.

This first Helt cabin was located on Section 27 three miles north of Clinton. Daniel's cabin was in Section 28, and the third cabin was a little southwest of this. As late as 1821 there was an encampment of about 500 Indians in what is now Helt Township. They were friendly, but a nuisance as they continually begged for food.

Between 1817 and 1825 other families who came to Helt Township were Skidmore, Ryerson, Hiddle, Hood, Hollingsworth, White, Andrews, Church, VanCamp, Bales, Rush, Stokesberry, Houghland and Mitchell.

The first white child born in Helt Township was William Skidmore, son of John, on Feb. 19, 1819. Catherine Helt, daughter of Michael, was the second, born March 23, 1819. Skidmore built the earliest inn in 1818, at that time the only stopping place for travelers between Fort Dearborn and Fort Harrison.

History amid dusty records

Books trace Ehrmann family's businesses

Clark, Dorothy *CLARK, Dorothy* *CLARK, Dorothy*

TS APR 05 1987

From a local attic-clearing appeared a large dusty ledger book, papers, contracts, correspondence and several smaller books pertaining to the Ehrmann family's complicated business partnerships and holdings. It is from materials like these that local historians can learn what was going on in the community years ago.

An alphabetical list of Chicago customers of the Ehrmann Coal Co. for the year 1907-08 was found. There was a cashbook for the real estate development in Terre Haute called McKeen Park Place.

Charles H. Ehrmann was involved in the Shelburn Construction Co., and the Becket-Shirkie Coal Co. in 1920. The 1909-1915 ledger of the Vandalia Park Place No. 1 and No. 2 was found, along with the 1905 credits and contracts of the Owens & Ehrmann South First Street Houses project.

The minutes of the board of directors of the Rock Creek Coal Co. were most informative. John E. Cox, Edgar W. Bell and Henry Adamson met to incorporate Aug. 28, 1917, at the office of Cox & Adamson, 410 Star Building.

They had filed articles of incorporation to do any kind of mining business, to mine, remove and market coal and all other minerals; to lease, buy and sell coal lands, real estate; and erect dwellings and other necessary buildings. Capital stock totaled \$10,000, 100 shares at \$100 each.

In September 1917, Burwell W. Sale was elected to fill Cox's vacancy. Bell resigned, and Miss Helen Sale was elected to fill his vacancy. George Fick was elected vice president.

Historically speaking



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In December 1917, the company sold property and assets and canceled a coal lease. At that time the 100 shares were owned by Burwell Sale (51 shares), Helen Sale (46 shares) and Henry Adamson (1 share). Sale's wife was Gertrude Sale.

On Dec. 7, 1917, C. H. Ehrmann, William A. Braden and George Fick purchased all of the Rock Creek Coal Co. The manager of the company was C. E. Forsyth. They owned all that part of the north half of the south quarter of Sec. 20, T13N, R9W, which laid east of the right-of-way of the Chicago, Terre Haute and Southeastern Railroad.

By the spring of 1918, buildings were built, they had water trouble in the mine, timber troubles with 12-foot entries, and needed another mule. The mine was producing 50 tons a day with 16 tank cars. They were producing 70-75 tons a day by July and August with nothing but troubles.

The consensus was "better sell" by Oct. 18, 1918. The signing of the Armistice and a mild winter caused

the coal business to collapse. It was impossible to sell coal. So they shut down the mine on Nov. 18, 1918.

By Dec. 12 they had closed down the mine and declared they were ready to sell for \$10,000. By Feb. 10, 1919, the property was dismantled and the proceeds were sold off to liquidate indebtedness.

Ben Bailey offered to buy the 56 plus acres of land for \$1,200, but couldn't get up the cash. Finally, in April 1919, it was sold to the Clovelly Coal Co.

Among the papers were old blank checks printed before 1920 on the McKeen National Bank and The Terre Haute National Bank, and an envelope addressed to C. H. Ehrmann, Fourth and Ohio Streets, with a 2-cent stamp canceled in 1906. The logo of the return address was a loaded coal car with the name Ehrmann Coal Co., distributing points, Terre Haute and Chicago — "If not delivered in three days, roll me back to Terre Haute."

Another ledger book began Oct. 6, 1908, when Spencer F. Ball, James C. Stimson, Robert E. Lee and Charles H. Ehrmann met in the office of Central Union Building & Loan Association, 30 S. Sixth St.

A report was given on the price of 155 acres owned by R. S. Tennant at the northeast corner of 25th Street and Maple Avenue. He wanted \$400 per acre, all cash, except a note for \$10,000 at 6 percent due in one year. They accepted the offer.

On Oct. 23, Ball, Stimson, Lee and Ehrmann met at the office of Ehrmann & Co., for a \$63,000

fund-raising session. This was accomplished by a \$20,000 land mortgage of the U. S. Trust Co.; \$12,000 mortgage by T. H. Trust Co. of McKeen lot contract; \$3,000 note of T. H. Trust; \$10,000 note of S. F. and W. C. Ball; \$10,000 note of R. S. Tennant; and \$8,000 in notes of \$2,000 each from Ball, Stimson, Lee and Ehrmann.

The deal was closed on Oct. 27 following an organizational meeting Oct. 25 to lay out Vandalia Park No. 2. They closed the Tennant deal on Oct. 30.

On Nov. 1, they met with Judge Stimson for the closing of the land except the Vandalia Railroad right-of-way, a total of 157.424 acres.

The group met in October 1913 to appoint Lee trustee for the property. They recorded the plat from Barbour Ave. and 30th St. to 25th St. and Maple Ave. They began the sale with Lot. No. 277 to U.S. Trust Co.

A yellowed newspaper clipping was pinned to a copy of the legal commercial report, and I quote, "Deeds in a big land deal were filed in the recorder's office by which 157 acres were transferred by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Tennant to a company composed of ... The land extends from 25th and Maple east to the poor farm, and the consideration was \$62,970.

"These men purchased some time ago the old Ijams farm, which lay west of Maple Ave. and 25th St., and it was platted as Vandalia Park and sold. The purchasers say there is no intention of plotting this new purchase for the present. It is situated near the new Vandalia round house and shops."

Reference
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library Affairs File

Clark, Dorothy

Nose to the grindstone

Markles made milling their business

15-1051-20 1988

Terre Haute's history always has been associated with Markle's Mill. After all, the mill's builder, Abraham Markle, was one of the town proprietors.

Probably the first use of the mill was to get out lumber for the old house, the first frame house in this and adjoining counties. The original record books show in detail the transactions, even to the accounting of the material used in the mill — the first house on the east side of the road — and such lumber as went into other houses built in the area.

At the close of the list of lumber that went into the house was a note added some years later by Frederick Markle, who handled the mill after his father's death in 1826. It said, "Moved in the day that Sarah came."

Sarah had married James Pettingill in 1812 in New York, and a land entry here was made in 1817 which shows that they were here in the spring of 1817, so that the house was evidently finished by that time.

The mill ran that winter under a roof, but no other shelter. Besides grinding flour and cornmeal, the mill operated as a distillery, although there were no sales in barrels noted until the summer of 1817 when grain and whiskey were shipped to New Orleans in at least one flat boat.

In later years several boats went in a fleet, and trade with shippers from that port continued until as late as the 1870s, though it is probable that the flatboat trade had ceased by then.

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Many of the items in the old books showed barter rather than sales. Money in the early days was scarce.

The law fixed the price to be paid the miller, and as most of the grinding was custom work, the toll was taken in either flour, meal or grain. From a "struck bushel" of wheat the miller took a half peck; from a peck measure of flour or meal he had a "toll dish" that held a quart. That was his lawful toll for the grinding.

The law also required that the customer should have his own wheat ground and not mixed with that of others. Buckwheat or other grain was threshed with a flail, a long stick to the end of which a shorter one was attached by a thong. A skillful user could do a lot of work, but the unskilled had to be careful that he missed his head.

A large amount often was spread on the threshing floor, and the grain worked out by oxen. In such cases it was necessary to take

sanitary precautions, and the grower had no desire to have his grain ground with others who might not have been so careful to avoid accident.

Even in the earliest days when every one raised more than he could use and there was little market for the surplus, the miller soon accumulated both grain and the finished product. As early as 1830, wheat was being hauled to Chicago for shipment or sale.

About that time, Henry Markle and his brother, Nelson Markle, were operating a stage line to Lafayette. Abraham Jr. was stationed at Kankakee for a while. The stage line went through Attica and Nelson lived there for nearly 20 years. The late A.R. Markle's father was born in 1842 at Rob Roy, then a prosperous town, some five or more miles south of Attica.

Nelson Markle also was a miller, and in 1850 he left Rob Roy to move to the hill this side of Brazil where he ran a tavern opposite the Cottage Hill Cemetery for a few years. Tiring of that and with an urge to get back into milling, he moved to Bowling Green where he had a mill on Jordan Creek. This explains A.R. Markle's birthplace in Clay County, Ind.

From earliest days the Markles balanced the books yearly, and some of the entries show the care taken to close the account either by cash or other means. One entry showed a balance due and a cross entry: "A widow, her last son fell at Antietam."

Another, not so merciful,

balances with the terse comment: "A rascal. I'll never trust him again." A few transactions during the Civil War were paid in gold, but the greater part were settled with "greenbacks" at a heavy discount or the price of flour selling at as much as \$7 a barrel.

With the advent of the Wabash & Erie Canal, some business went to the east by Lake Erie and Buffalo or even farther by the Erie Canal to New York. After the coming of the railroad, shipments went faster, as many as 400 barrels of flour in a single shipment.

The first dam was in a slightly different location, and the mill also, but after the close of the Civil War, the mill was torn down, piece by piece, and a portion added on the east end. Each timber was carefully marked with its location in the structure. In the rebuilding, all of the original timbers that weren't in good condition were replaced. The original timbers were hewed, while the new part and replacements were sawed. Until its destruction by fire in September 1938, the distinction was plainly visible.

The flood of 1875 washed out around the north end of the dam and shut down the mill for some time. When the mill was restored to activity, there came the opposite problem. For four months there was not enough water to operate at all.

In later years the dam was replaced by concrete, and when a drought prevented operation again, a gas engine was installed which operated until the mill's end.

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Community Archives File

Music brought fame

Talented Davis family delighted Valley residents

13 MAY 14 1989

It was a fortunate day for Terre Haute when William G. Davis brought his family here to make their home. Born in the south of Wales, Tredegar, Monmouthshire, in 1827, William Gomer Davis, son of Daniel and Mary (Gabriel) Davis, grew up with his family's iron industry and the Welshman's love for music.

Young William played with the local brass band, and went on to become the leading cornet soloist for one of the finest bands in Wales. Hard study and effort developed his fine singing voice and he became a basso.

In 1850 he married Jane Thomas at Bedwellty, South Wales, a member of one of the choirs with which he sang. They moved from Wales to Yorkshire, England, in 1857 where he took his place in the musical world by being elected leader of the famous School Croft Choir and Chorus, a group of 60 chosen singers.

This chorus was famous for its victories over all competitors in the great musical contests held each year. The Welsh name for the contests is "Eisteddfod" and their text books were the works of the great masters.

After nine years in England the young couple and their growing family came to America, locating first near the iron industry in Youngstown, Ohio. When the Terre Haute Nail Works opened, they left Ohio to come west.

Clark, Dorothy

tin

Historically speaking



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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Community Affairs File

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By this time the Davis children were at the age when they needed musical training, so the father's free time was devoted to his children. During their stay in Ohio they took part in several Eisteddfods. On one of these occasions, as a mark of respect, the family was given the title "Cor Yr Aelwyd" meaning "The Hearthstone Choir" and they became known by that title among Welsh-speaking people.

Davis came to Terre Haute in 1868 and took the position of roller for the puddling department of the Turner, Glover & Company, then the Terre Haute Iron & Nail

Works, later known as Terre Haute Iron & Steel Co. He rolled the first bar of iron ever made in this city.

The family home was located on what was then the outskirts of town, later known as 1750 Poplar Street. Here they could enjoy both town and country life. The father and sons were employed at the Nail Works, and their four acres of ground with cows and horses was taken care of by a man employed for that purpose.

Tom Davis worked the 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. shift, when his father took his place.

Although not yet classed as professional singers, they performed so well for their church and other local social affairs their fame as entertainers grew until they achieved professional status. The family enjoyed singing together for their own pleasure and played several musical instruments. They entertained friends.

They worked at their trade during the week and gave concerts on Saturday nights. The Nail Works closed at noon, so they could fill engagements in Terre Haute and nearby towns, returning in time to sing in church.

Ben Blanchard, a public-spirited citizen, paid the choir at Centenary Methodist Church a thousand dollars for the services of the Davis family.

During the 1880s, they sang on concert tours through Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, delight-

ing audiences where ever they appeared.

The father and his son Gabe (Gabriel) were bassos; Tom and Dan, tenors; Joe and Will, comic vocalists; Will was a baritone; Maggie sang soprano; Lizzie was contralto; Johnnie, the baby of the family, sang alto; Hettie sang alto and served as accompanist; and, occasionally, their mother sang alto with the group.

Clippings about the family were found in old scrapbooks from the attic of the Charles Ray home on South Sixth Street. Lizzie Davis married W. W. Ray in 1885. Tom Davis married Mary Divine and had a son, Willie. Charlotte Davis married John T. Llewellyn and had three children: Mabel, Willie and Ralph.

Mary Davis married Frank Woodward and had six children: Jennie, Jessie, Emma, Belle, Maggie and Ray. Hettie Davis married Thomas J. O'Dell. Dan Davis married first Emma O. Dodson, his classmate from City High School's Class of 1874. She died in 1881, and he remarried. Dan's fine tenor voice was long remembered by older residents.

Joseph H. Davis married Albertina Busjaeger of Waukesha, Wis. Their daughter was Madeline. His untimely death in 1907 was so deeply mourned by his mother that it was believed it was the cause of her death three months later.

The youngest son, John G. Davis, went into the drygoods business with B. H. Cornwell. He later became a U.S. Senator. It was his home that became the old Davis School on East Poplar Street.

Before his death in 1898, William G. Davis and his family were honored with a benefit put on by local citizens in recognition of their talents, their contributions to charity, and all worthy causes.

Mayor Armstrong expressed his appreciation and suggested the Monday night following Easter should be reserved for an annual benefit in their honor.

General's life had impact here

Patterson daughters settled, married in city

Ts MAY 28 1989

Gen. Arthur Patterson was not a pioneer of Vigo County, but as an old settler of Knox and Parke counties and a resident of the Terre Haute House during his last years, he was identified with early Terre Haute.

Described as strong, intellectual and enterprising, Patterson was born in 1772 in County Tyrone, not far from Lough Neagh on the shore of which lived John and Samuel Crawford, who also came to Terre Haute.

In 1789 his father with seven children and two servants crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel to New York and then to Virginia, taking three months time, where he built a mill and remained.

Arthur Patterson married the younger daughter of Col. Chambers who served in the Revolutionary army, while his brother served as a major in the British army and later settled in this area. Mrs. Patterson once danced with the notorious Aaron Burr at a ball. She died here in 1868.

Soon after the close of the War of 1812, Gen. Patterson moved his young family to Vincennes. The old

Historically speaking



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French post had experienced some of the horrors of Indian warfare. The Patterson children remembered the Indians well and saw them passing by their home displaying their victims scalps on poles.

The Patterson home at Vincennes was the old style, commodious, built of hewn logs, standing perpendicularly. In the passage way or entry was a well with a trap door over it which could be left standing ajar to allow an unwelcome visitor to plunge in on entering the front door. This was a

survival step from war times. In the yard surrounded by a high paled fence was another well with the customary tall sweep.

Gen. Patterson moved to Parke County and was one of the founders of Rockville, donating some land and building its first business house. He lost the caucus nomination for U.S. Senator by one vote to Gen. Tipton.

The Patterson name became prominent in Vigo County because of the successful career of Chambers Patterson, namesake of the Revolutionary grandfather, who was born in Vincennes in 1824, studied law at Harvard under the great jurist Judge Story, and went into the office of the Hon. John P. Usher. This eminent lawyer, also his brother-in-law, served in Lincoln's cabinet after a long association with Patterson.

Patterson's tact, common sense, well-balanced judgment and personal qualities made him a popular lawyer and judge and a powerful political force. He was three times mayor of Terre Haute and in many races for judicial and civil offices met with only one

defeat.

Gen. Patterson's daughters married David Linton, Demas Deming and John P. Usher, all at the top in their various callings, which brought him into close contact with Terre Haute in the 1830s when Mrs. Linton married.

Mrs. Deming's marriage occurred in 1840. She lived in the hotel property at First and Ohio, boarding for years at that famous hostelry then owned by Judge Deming and later by Clark, Butz and others. The Demings moved into the Sixth Street residence in 1842.

Gen. Patterson took up his residence in Terre Haute about 1846, and died at Saratoga Springs in 1848. His wife, Margaret Patterson, survived him 20 years, living with her daughter, Mrs. Usher.

Gen. Patterson was said to possess a vigorous intellect and an independence of character. He was well-read, and was pronounced by the Hon. Edward Everett, the noted orator, to be the best historian for a private gentleman he had ever known.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

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A farm built on cider vinegar ✓

Pegg family's product popular throughout the Valley

AUG 26 1980

Clark, Dorothy

A Vigo County couple sold cider vinegar for 40 cents a gallon for 40 years and made a comfortable living, innumerable friends, and earned the respect of all.

In 1842, Alfred Pegg married Eva Ann Brown, one of the three daughters of John E. Brown who had come from Ohio to the little settlement east of Terre Haute about the same time Pegg arrived here.

Pegg was born in 1821 to Quaker parents in North Carolina. His mother died when he was an infant, and his father died before he was 6 years old. The father married his wife's sister, so the stepmother-aunt took charge of Alfred until he was 9 years old. She then gave him to one of his uncles who was moving to Indiana.

They landed in northern Morgan County in April 1831, near the hills where there was plenty of game, mostly deer and turkey, during the first year. The cold, wet summer of that year prevented corn growing, and there was no seed for the following year.

Pegg's uncle moved to Hendricks County in the fall of 1832 and entered a piece of land two miles south of Bellville on the National Road. The heavily timbered land had to be cleared before they could build a house and barn and prepare fields.

Alfred stayed with his uncle until he was 16 years old. He moved to

Historically speaking



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By Dorothy J. Clark
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Vigo County and worked for Clark Moore who had the last contract for work on the National Road six miles east of Terre Haute. After that work was completed, he learned the cooper's trade and then worked for J.S. Casto who owned a large cooper shop in Terre Haute.

In the spring following his marriage, with only \$70 to his name and Mrs. Pegg still living with her parents, he decided to make his own furniture. He made two cord bedsteads, a square table, and a corner cupboard. He bought one set of splint-bottom chairs for 25 cents each, a skillet, bake-oven, and tea kettle, and was about ready to set up housekeeping.

Pegg was making 35 cents a day as a cooper. He and his wife lived on a dollar a week, eating mostly mush and milk. Cornmeal was

cheap, and by caring for a neighbor's cow, they got milk free.

Meanwhile, the Browns moved out on the Bloomington Road, now East Poplar Street, six miles east, the farm that Pegg later purchased. They lived here for 15 years, improving it every year, while he continued to work at the cooper's trade.

During that time, Pegg built himself an octagon house, the first house he ever built, with eight sides known as the "round house." This was about 1855.

The Round House Farm was later owned by Valentine & Co., who bought it in 1917 from Clarence Freeman, coal operator. Many cattle and hogs were raised and fattened here. Pegg sold the farm to Henry Nelson for \$30 an acre and bought 80 acres from Chauncey Rose.

This farm was located on Fruitridge Avenue, together with 33 more acres adjoining on the south, purchased from William D. Ladd, became the permanent home of the Peggs as long as they lived.

Although Pegg had only six weeks education and no capital, he built a thriving fruit orchard. In 1860 there was not much demand for fruit, so Pegg used the apples to make cider vinegar, hundreds of barrels of it. He also made his own barrels.

It was the vinegar that made his farm popular. Everyone ap-

preciated the A.B. Pegg cider vinegar, everyone used it, and returned for more. The same price and the same quality made the dependable product desirable.

The Peggs were active members of the Terre Haute Horticultural Society organized in 1865. He was a charter member, the first vice president, and later served as treasurer for 12 consecutive years.

At the first exhibition, Pegg had the best exhibit of cherries. His cut flowers were second only to Heinl's.

Pegg filled the unexpired term of Benjamin McKeen, county commissioner. He was elected real-estate appraiser for the county in 1862. From the beginning, he was a trustee of the Rose Orphans Home, a position he held until his death.

Pegg married twice. His second wife was Ella Briggs, sister of Herbert Briggs. All his property, amounting to \$24,000, he left to his wife with the request that when she had no further need of it, she place it where it would do some one some good.

Later, when Mrs. Pegg became the wife of the Rev. Riley Halstead, she had no further need of the Pegg estate. To the \$24,000 was added more than half that amount by the Rev. Halstead. This entire sum was then donated to DePauw University where it became known as the "Ella Pegg Halstead Permanent Endowment Fund."

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

The Lintons of old Terre Haute

Brothers made substantial mark in very short time

DEC 24 1989

About 1818 the Linton family arrived in old Terre Haute. This pioneer group included William C. Linton, age 22; his younger brothers and sisters, David, age 15; Alexander, 10, who died in 1826; and two girls, ages 8 and 4 years.

William and David had careers unparalleled for their success, as these young men, with only 16 years of effort in a little town of never more than 1,200 people during their time, stamped their individuality upon the settlement and accumulated fortunes sufficient to insure the independence and even wealth of their surviving families.

They passed away so early in the town's history that only scanty reminiscences remain of them, but enough is known to show the power and genius of the elder brother. Both men died in 1835.

In studying the career and character of William Linton, his grasp of large affairs and intelligent outlook, one is led to speculate that he might have been the rival of Chauncey Rose had he lived so long.

William Linton engaged in the mercantile business, beginning without means, and was fortunate from the first, taking his brother David along with him. Their names were soon associated as partners.

In 1822, the Linton store was located on Third Street below Wabash Avenue, a white-frame building with a red roof. It was

Clark, Dorothy

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later moved to North Fifth Street and, later still, torn down to make room for the Havens & Geddis wholesale house in the 1890s.

William Linton married Ann Aspinwall in 1820, the daughter of Eleazar Aspinwall from Louisville, who bought a share in the Terre Haute Company from Major Markle. He died in 1820 and was buried near Seventh and Walnut streets. When Walnut Street was opened, excavators passed through his grave and that of Miss Emily Collett.

William and Ann's marriage license was the 80th issued in Vigo County. He was soon left a widower, and in a few years married a Miss Perkins, sister of Dr. John Hitchcock's wife, who was a relative of Mrs. Charles Wood.

The Lintons built fine houses for the time. In 1830, David Linton

built the substantial brick house at Sixth and Ohio streets, which then set far back with spacious grounds around it, but was later moved close to the street line in what was known as "Chicago style" by Frederick A. Ross.

Linton was thought to have a long walk from his store on the public square to this house on an outlot of the town of Terre Haute. About the same time, 1830, William C. Linton built a house of similar style at Spring Hill on land bought from the Canal Company and bordering the route of the canal. It was built by the three Durham brothers who erected all the early big buildings, such as the Linton homes, the old courthouse, and the Prairie House, later to be a small part of the Terre Haute House.

The country home at Spring Hill was largely the work of the Durhams who made even the lime for the mortar from mussel shells taken from the Wabash River. The little wing at the side of the house was a school room for the children. A governess, Miss Warren, was brought from Philadelphia to care for the four children. The only son was killed at the age of 12 years by being thrown from a horse. One of the daughters died at the age of 11. The two who grew to maturity were Harriet, who was described as handsome and married to the son of D. Landreth, wealthy seedsman of Philadelphia, and the older

sister, Mary, who married a clergyman, the Rev. Lundy.

In his reminiscences, Capt. Earle described Linton as "a small, spare, yellow-complexioned man. He would walk back and forth behind the counter in his store on the east side of the public square, when he was not busy, very rapidly, with his arms swinging or gesticulating as if in fierce debate with some unseen person."

Earle remembered him as "a nervous man but not without courage. I saw him exhibit this quality once in a very remarkable manner. He held a paper in his hand which he proposed to read to the people on election day, 1828.

"Jehu Gosnell, a burly ruffian, stood near him with his clenched fist and told him if he dared to read a word he would knock him down, but Mr. Linton read the paper and Gosnell did nothing but threaten.

"I do not remember what it was all about," said Earle, "but Linton read: 'Jehu Gosnell says that he will swear upon a stack of Bibles,' and here Gosnell interrupted him with 'A lie, read right or I'll knock you down,' at the same time drawing back his fist to strike. Mr. Linton merely said to him, 'We have a jail for such fellows as you.' 'What did you say?' 'A stack of Bibles as high as this courthouse,' was the reply. No man ever did more for Terre Haute than William C. Linton in his day."

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
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Written recollections

Family 'incidents' retold from 'bygone years'

TUE MAR 25 1990

Many years ago, Maud Russell Edwards wrote to her kinsman, Herbert Briggs of Terre Haute, to tell him about ancestors and family stories. She recalled some of her earliest memories and family stories. She called them "incidents among the relations and old neighbors."

She told about "an old neighbor on Clay Prairie, Andrew Mundell. His son Jim was killed by a coon tree falling on him."

She recalled "a corn husking at Henry Palmer's house in Sullivan County, Ind., and people came from 15 miles around. Uncle Nelson was almost the hero of the day because he wore a new pair of buckskin trousers."

She remembered some of the people who attended were "the Andersons from Curry's Prairie, the McBrides from Jackson Township on the eastside of Buss Run (Busseroe), and Dan Ring's family from the eastside."

She told about grandfather Benjamin Siner's corn husking. "We had two big log houses which were in the middle of the eastside of Farmer's Prairie, about five miles northeast of Sullivan. Stephen Cruthers bought the place afterward."

Others attending that event

Historically speaking



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were the Andersons, the Maxwells from Caledonia, the Walls (related in some way) from southwest of grandfather's, Edmund Bowles who lived to be 104 years old, and John Bowles who lived about a mile south of Sullivan. One of the Maxwells was named Letha.

Edwards told about the time there was a corner on salt. "Old Salt Brown, as he was called, bought all of the salt that came on the steamboats, and got a corner on it. Hence his name."

She related that "Jacob D. Early also had a corner on salt at one time; also on hogs. Dan Ring bought a bushel of salt, paid two dollars for it, and carried it home in a bag on his horse.

"Old Dr. Parsons, one of the first merchants in Terre Haute, and Sam and John Crawford, used to come to Eli St. Clair's in Sullivan County to go hunting with him.

"They would hunt awhile, and then come in with deer and bear meat, and Mrs. Fanny Siner St. Clair would cook it for them, also making stacks of pancakes which she would lay before them with butter and honey. They always had 30 to 40 hives of bees. The St. Clair children would remember these occasions."

Continuing her memories of early days, Edwards said, "Old Michael Ring had a large family of girls married and gone, and one son Dan. One time old Michael was out hunting when he saw a bear's nest in a tall tree. He climbed closer and saw her move, so he took deliberate aim and fired, killing her. He took her cub home, fed him, and named him Jack.

"Uncle Ben St. Clair said he had seen Jack many times. He was so gentle, women would hold their young babies down and let Jack lick their feet. They kept him until he got to be a huge bear."

Her story should have ended there, but it didn't. They finally sold the bear for \$30 to an old man named Barbour who took him away

in a big wagon box.

Later he took Jack to Louisville, Ky., and advertised that there would be a big dog and bear fight. They turned 200 dogs on him. He knocked them right and left, but they killed the bear and the meat was sold.

Edwards told of the old double-log house at the foot of Dunham Hill that was said to be haunted. It was moved up on Seventh Street Road, and supposedly the "hants" were left behind.

At any rate, Aunt Lavina St. Clair, grandpa Eli's oldest daughter, lived there for a while. She complained that a middle door came open every night, no matter how carefully it was shut.

Edwards' grandmother, Cynthie St. Clair Carico, was born in Sullivan County and married near Terre Haute. In 1855 she went to Minnesota with her three children, her father Eli St. Clair, and others. They took up land near Cannon Falls, but returned to Indiana in 1859. They moved to Illinois in 1860 on the day Abraham Lincoln was elected the first time.

Edwards wished she had started earlier to collect family information, as she said, "to catch a peep now and then into the life of bygone years."

REFERENCE
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A family history

Call of the West brought family to Terre Haute

18 OCT 28 1990

Clark Dorothy

Charlotte Abbott was 19 years old when she plighted her troth with John Wood, a dashing young sea captain. This was in 1808.

Their family Bible recorded that he had been born in 1783 in London, England. His bride was born in 1787 in Salem, N.J. They were married in June at the home of her parents at Albingdon, Hartford County, Md.

Charlotte had been reared in a wealthy home with her brothers and sisters, but was well-trained in housewifely duties. She often accompanied her mother on her rounds of the slave quarters.

John and Charlotte Abbott Wood made their home in Baltimore, and their children, all 11 of them, were born in rapid succession, four sons and seven daughters. Their names and dates filled the family Bible.

When the War of 1812, the second war with England, was declared, John Wood enlisted and became a captain of the United States Navy.

In 1830, Charlotte was left a widow with several of the children still small. They had lived in a fairly comfortable home, but when she paid off all debts, she found herself almost penniless except for a small pension based on her husband's war service, and a family of growing children.

Her eldest son, William Maxwell Wood, was already making a place for himself in the medical world. Eventually, he became surgeon general of the U.S. Navy.

When news of the New West reached her, Charlotte decided it would be an ideal place to rear her

Historically speaking



By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

family. Leaving an older daughter in an eastern school, she set out with the remaining nine children.

The journey from Baltimore to Cincinnati was long and tedious by stagecoach. From Cincinnati, the rest of the trip was by water, down the Ohio River and up the Wabash River. She reached the little town of Terre Haute in the summer of 1835. Her first home was in the middle of a cornfield on what is now North Third Street.

Without life's little luxuries she had been accustomed to, Charlotte weathered the discomforts. Her household goods didn't arrive until a year later. Kind and generous people made her welcome and helped the family in many ways.

She became a part of the community and repaid all kindnesses to her and her children by a life of usefulness and unselfish devotion to her neighbors, friends and family.

Well-educated and well-reared, Charlotte Wood vowed that her

children would miss none of the finer things of life. Each morning she began the day by reading a chapter from her Bible, and attended the Congregational Church with her family.

For 40 years she toiled and struggled with and served her fellow citizens. She died at the age of 88 years.

Her children made her proud. The oldest, the surgeon general in the U.S. Navy, served in both the Mexican and Civil wars. Another son, Charles Wood, was an officer of the Vandalia Railroad Co. Dr. John Wood was a well-known physician.

One daughter married a railroad engineer, but died young. Two other daughters married druggists in the community, Cunningham and Donnelly. Another daughter married Moses W. Williams, a successful merchant and vice president of the City Gas Co.

Still another daughter, her namesake Charlotte, married Nathaniel Preston, a young New Englander who had come from Vermont in 1835 to establish a private school in Terre Haute. A year later he became cashier of the local branch of the State Bank of Indiana. He held this position for several years. This bank was built in 1834-35 and still stands on the southside of the Vigo County Courthouse. We know it as Memorial Hall, Terre Haute's oldest building.

While Nathaniel Preston was employed at the bank, his residence was in the rear of the

building. Here he took his bride, daughter of Charlotte Abbott Wood, and here their children were born. One of their children, Margaret Preston, was a public school teacher for 40 years in Terre Haute.

Later the Preston home was established in the house built by Major Dewees on the old Bloomington Road, later known as 1339 Poplar St. It was considered to be a mansion in those early days. It was built over a period of three years from 1823 to 1826, and for many years was the oldest residence in Terre Haute. It was owned by Margaret Preston until her death when it was passed on to her niece, Natalie Preston Smith, the great-granddaughter of that brave pioneer, Charlotte Abbott Wood.

The house stood empty after her death, and finally suffered a destructive fire. It was demolished in 1988.

One of Charlotte's granddaughters told how beautiful she was in her old age. She always wore black with a white kerchief and beautiful white cap. No matter how busy she was, and she was always busy, she never failed to freshen her appearance in the afternoon.

She loved the outdoors and always had a beautiful garden. She was never heard to complain of her many hardships in those difficult times 155 years ago. With a smile and telling a joke on herself, she made it all seem so easy — in the true pioneer spirit.

Hoosier weaving a family affair

Greensburg coverlet weavers came from Scotland

Two of Indiana's best-known coverlet weavers were William Craig Sr. and his son, William Craig Jr. Both were weavers in Greensburg, Decatur County, Ind., in the 1850s and 1860s.

Like many other Hoosier coverlet weavers, the Craig family came from Scotland where they wove muslins and silks. Forced to leave Scotland, William Sr. came to America as a stowaway, landing at Charleston, S.C.

Later he went to Rhode Island where he worked as a weaver. He showed his strong religious principles by refusing to work on Sunday as was required in the busy season.

His granddaughter, Serena Jane (Craig) Gilchrist, daughter of William Jr., told how her grandfather was born in 1800 in Kilmanrock, Scotland. He was only 20 when he landed in Charleston.

About 1832, he left Rhode Island and came to Mount Carmel where he set up his loom and began weaving coverlets. There was a great demand for these useful and beautiful bed covers.

Later he moved to Decatur County. At first, William Jr. worked with him as did the other son, James Craig. There also was a cousin, James, also of Salem. He was called "Canada James" to distinguish him from the other James. He, too, was a coverlet weaver.

Clark Dorothy

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

William Jr. married in 1845, and worked at weaving for eight or nine years. His wife told of the extent of his work, relating how people came from far and near, filling his weaving room with wool materials.

On show days they would come to town from an area of 40 to 50 miles around, bringing in their wool which they had spun and dyed.

They chose their patterns and left their orders, and while these orders were to be ready maybe six months ahead, he never disappointed a customer. If he promised a coverlet would be done at a certain time, it was ready on that date. In busy seasons, his wife would help spool the bobbins for the loom.

In 1853, William Jr. exchanged places with his father, moving out to the farm, while the father took

the shop and resumed his calling of coverlet weaving.

It is impossible to tell always which "William Craig" wove certain coverlets with that mark. It is certain that all coverlets woven after 1854 are the work of William Sr., since William Jr. wove no more after that date.

The Gilchrist family, some of whose members also were coverlet weavers, came from Kilmanrock, Scotland, where William Sr. and Jane Gilchrist were married. Both families were Scotch Presbyterians. Some of their descendants lived in Terre Haute.

It was in an old scrapbook belonging to the Craig family that I found the story relating to the history of the poem, "Mary's Little Lamb." One of the Hoosier descendants of the original "Mary" was Mrs. Lizzie Ruley of Jonesboro, Ind., a neighbor of the Craigs.

It seems that the original owner of the famous lamb, Mrs. Mary E. Tyler, was born in March 1806, in Sterling, Wooster County, Mass. Her father was a farmer.

When Mary was 9, they found that twin lambs had been born, and the ewe would only accept one of them. The job of feeding warm milk and catnip tea to the baby lamb fell to Mary. It was this close association that inspired the words "everywhere that Mary went the lamb was sure to go."

On the fateful morning that the lamb followed Mary to school, it happened that a 17-year-old youth, John Rollstone, was visiting the class. The incident so amused him that he wrote a poem about Mary and her lamb and gave her a copy a few days later.

Mary's lamb lived to be the mother of three little lambs, and when it was about 4 years old, it was gored to death by a cow. Mary's mother knitted two pairs of stockings from the lamb's fleece.

The history of Mary's lamb tells how the fleece from the lamb saved a church. In Boston, the Old South Church was aided by Mary's lamb more than 60 years after the lamb's death.

When the old structure was threatened by demolition, a large fair was conducted to raise funds. Mary took one of the pairs of stockings and gave it to those who were in charge to unwind and sell a half yard of the yarn to anyone who wanted it for 25 cents. Letters came in from all over the world asking for a piece of the yarn. Sales of the yarn amounted to \$140 and helped save Boston's historic Old South Church in which Mary was so interested.

All sorts of interesting bits of history can be found in old family scrapbooks, albums, diaries, journals and day books. Contact this writer if you wish to share.

Markles leave mark

Children, mills, historic home part of heritage

15 SEP 1991

It has been said "the art of all knowledge is really only to know where to look things up," and present-day researchers rely heavily (sometimes too heavily) on old newspaper files and microfilms of historical writings.

The writings of the late A.R. Markle frequently dealt with the pioneer Markle family. One of the earliest structures built in what is now Vigo County was the first Markle homestead. It was built in the winter of 1816-17, the first frame house built of timbers sawed at the Markle Mill on Otter Creek.

Located on the west side of the present Mill Dam Road on the grounds of the present brick house built in 1848, this earlier house was located closer to the road. It was moved east across the road to stand for over a century, marking the entrance to Markle Woods, or Forest Park in later years.

In this old house lived the family of Abraham and Catherine Markle and eight of their 10 children. Their oldest son, Abraham Jr., married about a year later which eased the family living space somewhat. An older boy, William, son of a first wife in all probability, did not live in this house as he came to Vigo County after the family was established and died here in 1820. The Markle's eldest daughter also arrived later, having been married before the family left

** Clark, Dorothy*

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New York State.

Henry Markle, who took charge of the mill after his father's death, was 17 years old when they moved into the new house. The family boarded at Fort Harrison until their new home was completed.

Aula Markle, the other daughter, was then 14, Nelson 9, Frederick 7, George 11, Joseph less than 5, while the youngest boy, Napoleon Bonaparte Markle, was to be born in the new house a year and a half later. He was the first white child born in Otter Creek Township and was destined to marry the first white child born in Sugar Creek Township, Mary Ann McFadden.

The house had two bedrooms on the second floor, over a large room on the first floor which extended the full length of the house. In the north end of this room as well as the north bedroom on the upper

floor, there was a huge fireplace which took up most of the space, leaving on one side a stairway to the upper floor and on the other a closet which was formerly a brick oven for baking.

An extension on the back of the building formed another room. Over this was an unfinished loft which afforded much needed sleeping quarters for the boys.

Markle's Mill was built from timber cut and framed on the site just as the house was. While its construction began earlier than that of the dwelling house, the mill was only partly finished the first winter. The need for family shelter required the sawmill to furnish the lumber for both to the extent that the sawmill could work and the grist mill only so far as to enable work to be carried on.

As soon as sufficient lumber was furnished to finish the house, the needed boards to enclose the mill were made and the mill was finished.

Ezra Jones, one of Vigo County's first county commissioners, migrated from Vermont to Kentucky in 1815 with his wife and nine children, and on to Fort Harrison in August 1816. A skilled mechanic, wheelwright and architect, he built the mill for Maj. Markle and probably framed the house also. Both structures were

built in the old-time manner with mortise and tenon, keyed together with wooden pegs driven through auger holes.

The frames were put together on the ground while laid flat and then when the four sides were complete, the "raising bee" was held. By main force of what neighbors were available, the sections were raised and fastened together.

Less than 10 years later, Maj. Markle died in this house, and his widow followed him 20 years later. He died without leaving a will, so the mill was operated by his widow and his son, Henry, the administrator of his tangled estate.

Another 40 years passed before the rush of business brought on by the Civil War caused the mill to be remodeled and an extension to be added.

Markle's Mill was owned by Charles D. Hansel when it was completely destroyed by fire on Sept. 20, 1938.

The earliest account books and the handmade iron key to the "1864 door" have been placed in the Indiana State Museum just recently. The key is the hinged folding type that was used in early days to protect the pockets of men's trousers and coats. The keys were so large and heavy, the hinge-type saved wear and tear on homespun cloth.

A family undertaking

Ross brothers provided brick to help Terre Haute

TS MAR 01 1992
Harry Ross, on his 96th birthday, enjoyed reminiscing about his early life in Terre Haute.

He was born March 2, 1801, in Saratoga County, N.Y., the fifth of the 12 children of Ephraim and Anna Ross.

At an early age his parents moved to Albany, and then to Edwards on the Hudson River. His first recollections were of attending school at Albany.

The family moved on to Onondago County, N.Y., and lived for many years where the city of Syracuse now stands.

Three older brothers, Russell, John and James, had gone west and were in the brick manufacturing business at Vincennes. They wrote back glowing accounts of the fine new country, and in 1819, the rest of the family decided to move west and join the boys.

It was a year's undertaking. The immigrants started in the fall of 1819, intending to follow the water route as much as possible.

A great portion of the trip was made overland. The weather grew colder, the rivers were all low, and progress was slow. The stopping place was to have been Evansville, Ind., but due to the weather and freezing rivers, the little party was forced to stop in Wheeling on the Ohio River until the spring thaw.

It was about Christmas when the boat was stopped by ice, and it was early the following March before the journey was resumed. Arriving at Evansville, the immigrants packed their belongings into

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

wagons and proceeded through the mud and slush to Vincennes. They located on the Grand Prairie about 40 miles north of Vincennes, about where Hutsonville, Ill., is now.

In 1824, the three Ross brothers, Harry, James and Russell, came to Terre Haute and went into the brick business. They rented land from General Allen located about where the Vigo County Nursing Home is now, and started a brickyard.

They were afraid to locate near the river because chills and fever were prevalent along the banks. A few years later they overcame their fear of the "ager" and moved to the banks of the Wabash River just north of Johns' lumber yard.

For many years the Ross brothers supplied all the brick used in Terre Haute for building purposes. Between 1838 and 1840, they sold the business and went into general merchandising in a small frame building on Second Street between Main and Ohio,

about in the middle of the square.

Just before Christmas 1841, fire leveled that entire block of buildings to the ground. The entire village turned out to fight the blaze, but nothing could be done to check the furious flames. Everything in the building was destroyed by the fire.

The Ross brothers had been in business in Darwin, and left Terre Haute for that location immediately after the fire and went into the pork packinhg business. They remained in Darwin for three years before returning to Terre Haute and rebuilding their store on its former site.

The new block was of brick, and was the first three-story building in town. It had an open front which was considered quite a metropolitan innovation at the time.

In addition to his merchandising business, Ross made other investments. He had been a director of the First National Bank for more than 28 years, and was a stockholder and member of the board of directors of the Vandalia Railroad for many years. He retired from active business pursuits in 1861.

When the Ross brothers came to Terre Haute in 1824, the county courthouse was being built, and Harry Ross went up in the half-completed belfry to take a look around. He could see every house in the village, and he counted 40. They were mostly scattered along First and Second streets, although

a few had located out on the prairie.

Next to the "ager," the shortage of money was one of the greatest hardships encountered by the early settlers. There actually was no money at all to speak of. A few Mexican dollars found their way in, but there were no smaller coins. When business transactions were made requiring currency, the parties concerned proceeded to a blacksmith shop where the silver dollar was cut into eight pieces, pie-shaped and called "bits."

The bits were small and hard to carry. They were so sharp they wore out trouser pockets and had to be carried in leather drawstring bags. It almost was as much trouble to keep money as it was to earn it.

To show how scarce money was, Ross said the postage on a letter from here to Onondago, his old home, was 25 cents and paid at the end of the route. His parents wrote to their relatives in New York state and told them to quit writing letters, for they could not pay the postage for them at this end.

Many settlers who went to New Orleans on flatboats to sell their crops brought back specie, but it was many years before money became common currency.

According to Harry Ross, he and his brother James earned their first \$100 by making and filling sausages for Gilman, who ran the first pork house in Terre Haute. With this hard-earned money, they purchased 80 acres of timber land.

Ijams family played part in cattle war

TS JAN 03 1993

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking



By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

History comes alive when local families take part in it — even the cattle wars of the 1890s. After all, television and movies provide the public with cattle drives to railroad towns, the rip-snorting times of rustlers and the inevitable clashes between owners of huge herds established in the early Spanish days and the coming of homesteaders to the free grasslands.

The story of cattle in America and of the men whose ranches reached from the Rio Grande up into the far reaches of Montana, from those far-flung cattle empires down to our own times, is a fascinating one complete with mob violence, lynchings and the inevitable shootings.

As early as 1868, small groups of cattle owners organized into protective associations to keep out thieves nad "maverickers," those unscrupulous men who built up a herd by rounding up all calves and unbranded cattle and putting their brand on them.

By 1872 there were two protective associations in Colorado with delegations from the newer Wyoming Association to observe the proceedings. The freight and stage lines in Cheyenne were trying to protect their stock, horses, mules and bulls from rustlers.

In Laramie, the County Stock Growers Association organized in time to run the first general roundup in the spring of 1873. In

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1879 the name was changed to Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and within two years had acquired powerful connections in the state capitol.

Taking the law into their own hands, the group's stock detectives were arresting men or shooting them down if they resisted. Soon the settlers feared the association and its armed range riders more than the rustlers or the outlaws did.

In the mid-1880s, Mother Nature took a hand and severe blizzards killed off most of the cattle. The bottom dropped out of the market, and the cattlemen had to build up their herds again.

The hated wire fences and claim shacks appeared along with the small herds of the homesteaders. When the value of a steer jumped from \$1.50 to \$40 in three months' time, everyone got greedy and big trouble

started.

Mari Sandoz's book, "The Cattlemen," tells of Hiram B. Ijams, who was secretary of the Board of Livestock Commissioners for the state of Wyoming. This former Terre Hautean, brother of William P. Ijams, was sent to Montana and Idaho to scout for gunmen, talking openly about a cattleman "invasion" of Johnson County to kill rustlers, including Sheriff Angus and other officials.

It was believed they would scare out several hundred settlers, and clear the range, becoming a lesson to settlers all through the cow country.

Ijams talked up the safety of the job, bringing out that many of the homesteaders didn't even own a bird gun. The invasion force would be hundreds strong, with bounties for all. He recruited 25 of the bravest gunfighters of Texas, all said to be of "impeccable" character, for the handsome sum of \$1,000 each plus expenses.

Very few understood that this cattle war was between huge ranch interests against the government and its public land policy. The cattlemen believed theirs by divine right was the free public domain promising 160 acres for every bona fide homesucker.

On April 13, 1892, the "invaders" rode against the town of Buffalo, Johnson County, Wyo-

ming, one of the most exciting and most appalling events in American history.

By nightfall the invaders were safe from the townspeople in Fort McKinney. The dead were being buried, and the wounded cared for. The foreman of the Ijams outfit in that famed Powder River country sneaked out of Wyoming.

Slowly the dust of the great crusade of 1892 settled, and the hard times of 1893 brought even more settlers to Wyoming.

Sandoz wrote: "To most of the world the cattleman and his cowboys, good and bad, are not known for the significance of their beef production. Instead, they are dramatic, the romantic figures of the Wild West that is largely imaginary."

The Johnson County cattle war marked the dividing line between the old and the new West. Playing a part in this violent history was the Ijams family of Terre Haute.

Hiram Burch Ijams, born 1843, was the first of four children of Rufus P. Ijams and his wife, Mary Whiting Burch.

His brother, William P. Ijams, made Terre Haute his home, but he also owned the O.X. Bar Ranch, a large estate on the Powder River in Wyoming, near the home of the famous Col. William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

H.B. Ijams died in 1896 at San Antonio, Texas.

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Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Valley heritage

(14) Clark, Dorothy (1) ~~Boys, John~~

Collection tells of Art family

TS NOV 07 1993

William E. Art fought in the Union Army during the Civil War as did two of his sons, William Art and James McIlroy Art. A younger son, John, was the grandfather of Joe Art, a Terre Haute resident, who loaned his collection of letters, diaries, and family keepsakes to me.

His great-grandfather, William E. Art, was born in Flemming, Ky., in 1824, and at the time of his enlistment in 1862 was 41 years old. He served in Company C of the 85th Regiment, Indiana Infantry, for three years.

His son, James, served with Company G of the 43rd Indiana, and died of chronic diarrhea in June 1863 in Helena, Ark., and was buried there.

The chaplain of the 43rd Regiment sent explicit instructions how to find the grave of James. The regiment buried their dead in the rear of what was known as the General Hindman house on a hill in Helena. They were instructed to go up the hill on the road that runs between the house and the Catholic nunnery and the first graveyard on the points to the left of the road was the spot.

A board was placed at the head of the grave with the name and company inscribed. A large stake was driven in the corner of the grave at the head, and a bottle holding his army record inside was buried at his feet in the

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

corner of the grave. His "trinkets" were boxed up and sent home by express, and his journey from a farm in Vigo County to a hill in Arkansas was done.

Letters from young Billy Art to his parents dated 1864 were mailed from army locations in Cleveland, Ohio, and Nashville, Tenn. They reported him well and hearty and sending money home. His company and regiment were not mentioned.

In October 1862, Corp. William E. Art was stationed in a camp near Lexington, Ky. In a letter to his wife, Mary A., he told of a mishap after leaving Falmouth. "I was directed by Lieutenant Harbert to go with a wagon as a more easy position than marching in the ranks, and going up along rocky hill I was chalking up the wheel, and my forefinger on my right hand was caught under the wheel and

badly mashed . . . The day we started from Falmouth we had dust almost to suffocation. The second day was cloudy with an occasional drizzle of rain until in the night when snow fell to the depth of 4 or 5 inches . . .

"Paris is a very pretty town in a pretty country," he wrote, "and Kensington is an ugly dirty town in a beautiful country. We don't know where we will go next. There is no enemy in Kentucky, and if we go to hunt one we will have to go out of this state."

In August 1863, Art wrote to his wife from Murfreesboro, Tenn.: ". . . we are still at this place sweating and freezing . . . there was an inspection yesterday to see which brigade should be sent to the front, and report says we are to stay here. They are going to send the largest brigade in the division, and we about the smallest . . ."

In describing the inhabitants of that section of Tennessee, Art stated that they were the "most ignorant set I ever saw. There is not more than half of them can tell a 25-cent scrip from a 5-cent one, both being one color and a ten from a fifty. Some of the boys drive quite a trade in this way, and they pass brass medals of the size of five dollars for gold and broken bank money."

According to the family, veteran William E. Art owned land northwest of Terre Haute which he traded for land on the Old

Paris Road, land originally belonging to the Rippetoe family. He is buried in Pisgah Cemetery near the Green Valley Mine. He was a preacher then and helped establish that church. He belonged to the Illinois church group, however, instead of the Indiana group.

In one of Art's letters home to his wife he tells her that "the war will have to end before long if they keep on as they have been for the last two months. One side or the other will have to succumb. If they [the Rebs] are losing men like we are they must have a great many more than they were supposed to have on the last dog of them would be dead, wounded or sick."

"Men from the front yesterday say Sherman had drawn them out of their strong position on the Chattahoochie River . . . still try to hope for the best, but God only knows. Our sins as a nation before him must have been dark indeed for the punishment has been awful, and what is come yet no mortal can tell."

"What rivers of blood have been poured out, and still it flows like water. To me it talk of mangled limbs and dying groans and widow's tears and orphan's moans. Well, I will close. Children I want you to be good and kind to your Mother. — Your husband, William E. Art."

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Many Hoosiers, Illini related

T8 MAY 29 1994

Early settlers around Sugar Creek in western Vigo County and southeastern Edgar County, Ill., are frequently found to be related in some way.

George W. Barnhart owned a farm one mile north of the New Providence Presbyterian Church on the Indiana-Illinois state line. He was a Union Army veteran of the Civil War and lies buried next to the west fence of the New Providence Cemetery.

The North Arm community located on the old Clinton Road to Paris claims its neighborhood was the first settled in Edgar County. However, because of the early death dates found on tombstones, residents can't believe that settlements were not made before 1817, the date of the North Arm community.

The David Smith Cemetery is close to Nelson, the place where the Sugar Creek settlement people went for their mail from both sides of the state line in pioneer days.

Officially listed as being in the northwest part of Section 22, Township 12, Range 10 in Sugar Creek Township, Vigo County, the old David Smith Cemetery became overgrown and almost impossible to get into.

A Civil War veteran, John Reedy, of Co. H., 149th Indiana Infantry, lies buried close to the north fence. This grave is another reason why the cemetery must be cleared and an access road provided according to state law.

Among the markers are:

Priscilla (?) died 1816, aged 1 month. George W. died 1849, aged 11 years. The infant son of J. & M. Smith died 1870. Their daughter died 1887, aged 4 months.



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A large tombstone tells of Mary, wife of Jacob W. Hall, who died 1877, aged 34 years. In the same row is buried Rebecca A., wife of David E. Smith, who died 1879, aged 35 years. Alice Patton died 1880 at the age of 15 years.

In the second row from the east were children who died at the ages of 4, 6 — for example, Albert H., son of A.B. and S.B. Scott, who died 1867, aged 4 years.

At least six more graves were found in this row; all tombstones are completely illegible. Some just had flat pieces or reddish stone for grave markers.

It was estimated there were about 40 burials in this cemetery. They included: John P. Hawkins who died 1860, age 28; Barbba E., wife of W.J. Hawkins who died 1887, age 75; Lillie Buckingham died 1877, age 2 and another Buckingham died age 41 years.

George, son of J.M. and S. Pettit, died 1868, age 1 and Sarah, wife of J.M., died at age 30.

Buried in the third row from the west were Rhoda who married Smith; wife of H. May died 1885; also J.C. Jones died 1866, aged 34 years.

George Smith is supposed to have erected the first grist mill in Vigo County, although there are some that dispute it. It was a few miles from where the town of Bloomington is.

His son, Uncle Davy Smith, was a "good old man, and preached the gospel for years. He preached to all, and asked no pay, and was a hard worker till the time of his death."

A permanent resident of Vigo County from 1817 on, he owned land in 1828 when he married Nancy Noel. She died 1898 at the age of 87. The Rev. David Smith died in 1887, aged 83 years.

Tombstones copied from New Providence Cemetery included: "Mary C. Cusick, dau of D. and E. Cusick, d. 1815, almost four years old; their infant son d. 1816; Elizabeth Cusick b. 1789, d. 1812; Elizabeth, wife of J. Sims, d. 1812, aged 20; and Mary, Wife of Wm. G. Simms [carved thus] d. 1815, aged 15."

According to another source, James and Elizabeth Sims came from Ireland with their father and mother before the Revolutionary War. The parents died on board ship during the crossing. The receipt for payment of their passage was either lost or stolen from the parents, and the children had no way to prove their fares had been paid.

The ship captain apprenticed the children to a wealthy Virginian, who in turn paid the captain for their passage. The children became indentured servants of the Virginian, who also was given all the personal property of the parents.

James Sims, age 14, ran off and joined the Revolutionary Army and served seven years.

During that time he became friends with James Cusick. Each of the veterans received 160 acres of land in Knox County, Tenn., for their military service.

Following his discharge from the Army, James went back to Virginia and stole his sister, Elizabeth, from the Virginian and took her to his western claim.

Here he and Cusick traded sisters in marriage. To James Sims and Elizabeth Cusick Sims were born James, John and William (possibly more). William Sims married Mary Cusick and they had six boys and six girls: James, Joseph, Jane, Catherine, Elizabeth, David, Margaret, John, Sarah, William, Mary Ellen and Samuel.

When Samuel was a baby, William and Mary migrated with several other families in wagons drawn by oxen to Sandford Station, where they entered 160 acres of land. They built two log rooms, called pens. One of the rooms had an upstairs and one had a shed kitchen and a porch.

The name Cusick was sometimes spelled Chusick. Possibly William and Mary Sims were first cousins. She was said to have died 1815 at age 15 years, but checking the tombstones, she was 45 when she died. This explains how she could have had 12 children.

It is also believed that J. Sims and Wm. G. Sim(m)s were brothers, although their last names were spelled differently on tombstones. Carvers were known to have been in error more often than not. Their mistakes lasted longer, for sure!

Clifts moved here in 1850s

TS SEP 18 1994

William Stout Clift and his wife, Emily (Summers) Clift, came from Washington, Kentucky, to Terre Haute in June, 1852. He had learned milling from his wife's cousin, Thomas Summers, whose wife was the daughter of Nathaniel Hixon who had the first water mill for grinding grain in Mason county.

Instead of establishing a mill here, Clift decided to go into building and manufacturing supplies because of the rapid increase in population and the great demand for homes here.

Traveling by steamboat down the Ohio river to Madison, Ind., and then by railroad to Indianapolis and on to Terre Haute, Clift arrived here with his wife and two children. They spent a few days at the Buntin House on South Third Street, then lived for the rest of the summer in Mr. Clayton's house on South Fifth Street.

Early in the fall, the Clift family moved to the corner of Fourth and Chestnut, in a double brick house. The Hulman family occupied the other side of the double house.

Next spring, Clift built a home near the Rev. Jewett out on the prairie, now 13th and Chestnut, where he lived until his death. His wife whom he married in 1842, gave him three children: Gilbert, who died 1865; Mary Bell, who married Leroy B.



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By Dorothy Clark
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Cox of Chicago; and John M. Clift, who became his father's business partner.

Clift praised Terre Haute so highly in letters to his brothers and sisters that in 1855 his youngest brother, Samuel, came to town. Later, his other three brothers and his four sisters came to Indiana. The brothers and two sisters located in Henry county, two sisters on farms near Indianapolis.

After the Civil War, two brothers, Mason and Walter W., came to Terre Haute where they lived out their lives.

Uncle Billy Clift, described as a portly gentleman with genial, kindly features and a hearty laugh, was a hard worker and successful in his business of contracting, building, and as owner of the planing mill. He was born in Mason County, Ky., in 1815, the son of Nelson and Elizabeth Clift.

From 1852 to 1864, he worked

as a contractor and builder before building his own frame planing mill at 123 North Ninth St. A year later, J.H. Williams became his partner.

The mill was destroyed by fire June 10, 1884. The partners immediately cleared away the ruins and built an even larger mill.

Clift never had political aspirations, but was pulled from retirement in 1872 and elected a member of the City Council from the Fifth Ward. As police commissioner, he made a record for himself as a man of courage and conviction.

Clift served as president of the Vigo Agricultural Society, was a member of the First Baptist Church, a Mason, and a prelate of the Terre Haute Commandery, Knights Templar. He died in 1888, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery with his wife who died in 1893.

The Walker family came from Glasgow, Scotland, to Madison, Ind., to work on the railroad. Andrew Walker, age 18, joined his two brothers in 1849. They were employed on the Madison and Indianapolis Railway line.

Andrew worked at the round house, and became a fireman on the wood-burning engines of that day. He advanced to engineer, resigning in 1854 to visit his family in Scotland.

Walker returned to Madison,

worked as an engineer on the railroad, and married Hannah Bishop, daughter of Joel Bishop of Canaan.

In 1862, he moved to Indianapolis and managed a farm where the State Fairgrounds are now at 38th Street. Railroading offered more attractions than farming, so Andrew returned as an engineer for the third time. He worked for the Bee Lines from Indianapolis to Richmond, and later on the Vandalia from Indianapolis to St. Louis.

In 1899 his home was in Terre Haute. He contracted typhoid fever in Indianapolis and was returned to his daughter's home here where he died.

Andrew Walker had served almost 50 years as a railroader. In his 45 years of traveling more than a million miles, he was never involved in a serious train wreck, and railroading at that time was a hazardous occupation.

Andrew's wife died in 1890. His daughter, Georgeanna, had married John McCall Clift, partner in the Clift, Williams and Co. Planing Mill. The Walkers are buried in Highland Lawn Cemetery.

Mary Bell Clift Cox (Mrs. Leroy B. Cox) 1847-1942 was a life member of the Vigo County Historical Society and an active genealogist. She was responsible for compiling the family records.